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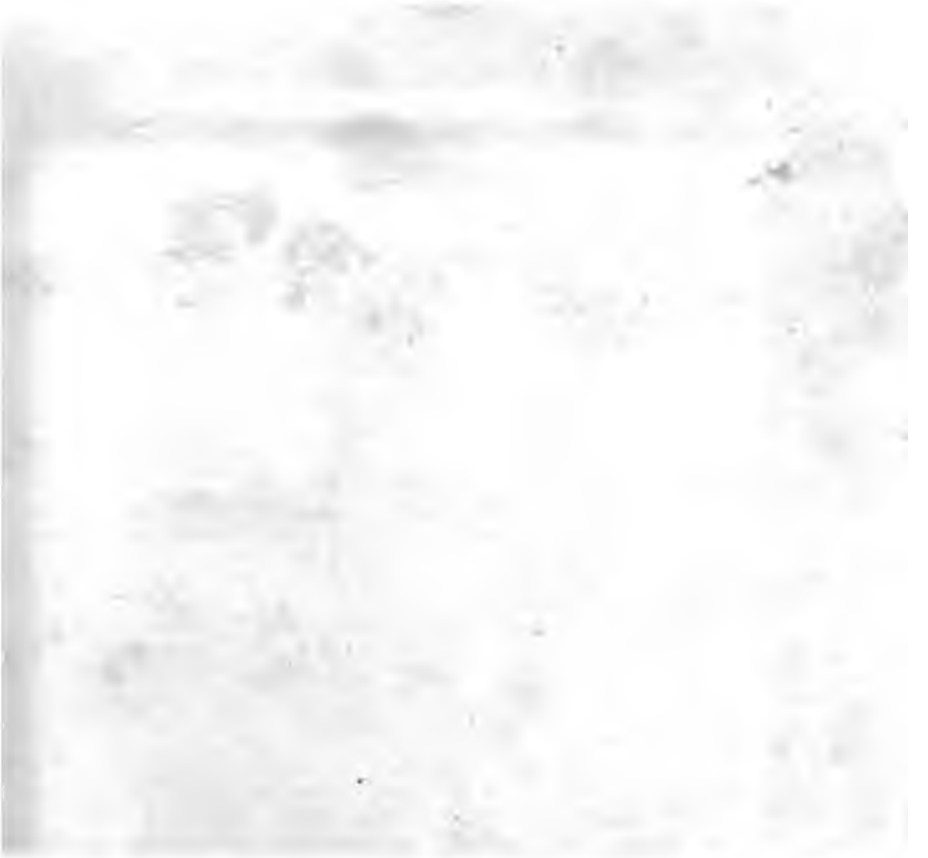

J. R. Coulthart.

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THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE;

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

JANUARY, 1858.

THE COMMERCIAL CRISIS, 1857.

WHATEVER may be the opinion of ultra-theorists in finance, and however much those who look forward to periods of severe monetary pressure as the millionaire's harvest, the practical every-day public have all along been thoroughly convinced of the propriety of the step which has been the occasion of calling Parliament together in the month of December. Except by that very small minority who see in a great financial crisis only the opportunity of rearing up an enormous fabric of wealth upon the chaos of commercial ruin, the feeling was universal that the Government were fully justified in the act which has rendered a bill necessary to indemnify them for having authorised an infraction of the Bank Act of 1844, and to exonerate the directors of the Bank of England from the consequences of acting upon that authority. Probably upon no question so suggestive of conflicting views, as directly or indirectly every measure having reference to the stability of the existing currency laws must needs be, was there ever greater unanimity exhibited by Parliament than in its approval of the course which ministers by their letter of the 12th November adopted. The advocates of rival theories, the champions of metallic currency and the paper currency, the free traders in money and the protectionists, Chancellors of the Exchequer that have been and that hope to be—bankers, merchants, manufacturers, and lawyers—all who carry anything like authority in vote or speech, with only one important exception, concurred by granting the indemnity in stamping with the parliamentary approbation the policy which Lord Palmerston and Sir Cornewall Lewis have in an exigency of no ordinary character pursued,

Upon two points, and two only, was there the slightest shade of difference observable in the course of the several debates which introduced and carried the Indemnity Act to its final stage: the first, whether the authority to the Bank to exceed the parliamentary limit of its issues was not too long delayed; and the second, whether the relaxation should be allowed to operate only so long as the minimum rate of discount remains at ten per cent.? These are questions which every man will determine for himself according as he has been personally affected by the event. He who has experienced no losses, who has known nothing of the suspension of regular remittances from the United States or the north of Europe, during the period when solvency in those countries was the exception and bankruptcy the rule,—he who has had no occasion to apply for the ordinary discount accommodation—which, in a commercial community, is as much an essential as the currency itself—and receive a refusal, not from the insufficiency of his credit or the value of his securities, but solely from the extreme competition in the demand, as compared with the limit of the supply, will in all probability hold to the opinion that the concession was properly timed. While those who with assets—presently but not instantly available—sufficient to pay 20*s.*, 30*s.*, or more shillings in the pound upon all their liabilities, have seen their names paraded in the bankrupt list, and the fair fame acquired by many years of honest and prudent trading shattered by a calamity which has spread over nearly half the civilized globe, upon which there is scarcely a commercial people in the world that has escaped wholly unscathed, will as certainly contend that had the screw been loosened a week or two earlier, their credit might have been saved, and the hundreds—perhaps thousands—who are in one way or other dependent upon them rescued from the misery and want by which the total or partial cessation of employment is invariably accompanied. One thing however is certain, that any further delay in the application of the ameliorating principle would have resulted in consequences far more serious than any which we have now to lament. Equally true is it that the remedy applied was instantaneous in its operation; and of its success, the facts mentioned by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his speech of the 11th ultimo, viz., that the Bank reserve which on the day the Government letter issued was reduced as low as £581,000, stood on the 11th of the following month at £4,680,000 or £2,680,000 over the £2,000,000 excess of issues, and that the bullion had risen within the same four weeks from £6,524,000 to £8,200,000 are conclusive.

Whether the inquiry by which ministers have avoided the responsibility of proposing any permanent alteration of the late Sir R. Peel's Act, with the view of meeting these periodical financial crises which have, at almost regular intervals of ten years, marked the progress of the present century, will eventuate in any practical advantage, is a matter upon which even those whose sentiments upon the leading principles involved in the currency question accord may reasonably differ. The duty which the committee have had delegated to them is wide and comprehensive: to inquire into and report upon the general principle of the Act of 1844; to investigate the subject of provincial issues in England, Scotland, and in Ireland; and to inquire how far the general operation of the acts of 1844 and 1845 may be illustrated by an investigation into the causes of the present commercial distress. Here is a task, not for a session, but for a whole Parliament.

As regards the first section of the inquiry, the voluminous evidence collected by the committee of last session would, under ordinary circumstances, afford ample data upon which to found a satisfactory report. The unfortunate occurrences of the last two months may, however, in the minds of some persons, warrant a further sifting of adverse authorities, ere the only decision to which common sense and experience alike point is pronounced—viz., that under all circumstances, the principle of the convertibility of paper money must be maintained inviolate.

The subject of provincial issues, though in itself a matter of detail, opens up a much wider field for discussion, and is likely to elicit a large amount of testimony, in which, as is generally found in such cases, the public benefit will be associated with what each individual witness conceives to be most in accordance with his own particular interest. What Mr. Gladstone calls the natural development of Sir R. Peel's Act undoubtedly contemplated the gradual abolition of country issues, and, in process of time, the centralisation of the whole issuing powers of the United Kingdom in the Bank of England. For many and obvious reasons, a change which would establish a uniform paper currency for England, Scotland, and Ireland, and place the responsibility of note issues in the hands of one establishment, would conduce to the public convenience and advantage. There is but little question that such a change would have been carried into effect in 1844-45, but that Sir R. Peel discovered that local customs and local prejudices in favour of the provincial bank note were too powerful to be readily overcome. The same reason, it is to be presumed, now induces the Chancellor of the Exchequer to avoid any indication that in this respect

Government have any notion of going beyond the letter of the existing law. On the contrary, if any inkling of ministerial intentions is to be gathered from the right honourable gentleman's speech, we may anticipate that the influence of the Government will be opposed to any proposition for reducing the numerical sources of our paper circulation, or for stamping it with that insignia of uniform authority to give it currency in all parts of the kingdom.

A still more difficult and complicated branch of the subject referred to is that which embraces an investigation into the causes of the present commercial distress, and how far those causes may illustrate the working of the Act of 1844. The different, and in many instances opposite, points of view from which those who may be expected to volunteer evidence, or whom the committee may think proper to summon, in regard to a financial crisis, will induce them to attribute it to causes the most conflicting and irreconcilable. On one side we are told that the evil is entirely owing to the mismanagement of the circulating medium—a wide charge, which may mean anything or nothing. Over speculation and unsound trading, another authority assures us are the cause. But over speculation and unsound trading will always exist in a greater or less degree, and although they may and undoubtedly do aggravate the difficulty when it comes, they are not potent enough to occasion it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, meeting the arguments of the Birmingham school, says, "that the crisis owes its origin, not to any derangement of the currency, but to a derangement of capital and credit," forgetting apparently that such derangement is but a midway stage between cause and effect. The same high financial authority charges the practice of late years by most of the joint-stock banks—a practice borrowed from the Scotch system of banking—of allowing interest on deposits at call or on short notice, with having sensibly added to the embarrassment. Possibly this is a complaint not altogether without foundation. It is clear that no banking company can allow high interest on deposits without lending the money out at still higher interest, and, as a general rule, to do that they must invest it in securities that are not immediately available; the consequence is, that unless a reserve is maintained large enough to tell seriously upon divisible profits, a rush on the part of the depositors might necessitate such an inroad upon the funds available for the current every-day business, as to compel the establishment to close its doors. Mr. Glyn, speaking with that sound practical common sense which always distinguishes him, directs attention to some of the immediate causes, which everybody will recognise, when he

speaks of the effect which the financial chaos in the United States and the destruction of commercial houses in the North of Europe must have had upon the commercial and monetary relations of this country, though he will find on both sides of the Tweed those who will be ready to combat his position when he complains of over banking in Scotland and in England.

When the cause of a disease remains doubtful, we always find that the remedies which even the most skilful practitioners prescribe vary: so here we have a whole catalogue of nostrums recommended, each believed to be by its advocate the certain preventive or the infallible cure. Setting aside the dogmas of the exclusively paper and the exclusively metallic currency men, an intimation comes from one quarter that if the management and control of the note issues be taken from the Bank and vested in a government department, we shall hear no more of crises and panics. In another place we are assured that if, when the moment of the crisis arrives, there be a plentiful issue of commercial Exchequer bills and Treasury notes, the great want, an expanded circulation, will be immediately supplied, and the evil will be at an end. Without stopping to refute propositions so evidently absurd, it may be worth while to inquire whether, after all, these periodically recurring difficulties are not the natural and inevitable results of causes which no human power of penetration can foresee, and no amount of sagacity prevent? One singular feature connected with them, is the almost regular intervals at which they occur—1826, 1837, 1847, and 1857 have all been years of panic; and it may form by no means the least instructive part of the investigation which is about to take place, whether there was not immediately preceding each of those years a large absorption of capital on objects either wholly unproductive, as war or famine—or not immediately productive, as railways and other kindred speculations, which no legislative wisdom, no governmental authority could avoid? If this should be the view taken by the committee, they will scarcely hesitate in pronouncing a verdict in favour of the principle of the existing act, recommending such an expansion of the limit of issues as the augmented trade of the country may require, and the introduction of some provision by which the Government in the moment of need may afford relief without violating the law.

THE BANK CHARTER ACT, AND THE BILL OF INDEMNITY.

In consequence of the severity of the monetary crisis, and the necessity for passing at once a bill of indemnity, legalising the act of the Government authorising the directors of the Bank of England to issue notes beyond the amount limited by the Bank Charter, ministers deemed it advisable to call Parliament together at an earlier period than usual. The session was consequently opened on the third December, by the Queen in person. In alluding to the immediate object of their assembling, Her Majesty in the speech from the throne said:—

Circumstances have recently arisen, connected with the commercial interests of the country, which have induced me to call Parliament together before the usual time. The failure of certain joint-stock banks, and of some mercantile firms, produced such an extent of distrust as led me to authorise my ministers to recommend to the directors of the Bank of England the adoption of a course of proceeding which appeared necessary for allaying the prevalent alarm. As that course has involved a departure from the existing law, a bill for indemnifying those who advised and those who adopted it will be submitted for your consideration. I have observed, with great regret, that the disturbed state of commercial transactions in general has occasioned a diminution of employment in the manufacturing districts, which I fear cannot fail to be attended with much local distress; I trust, however, that this evil may not be of long duration; and the abundant harvest with which it has graciously pleased Divine Providence to bless this land will, I hope, in some degree mitigate the sufferings which this state of things must unavoidably produce.

In the House of Lords, the answer to the address was moved by—

Lord Portman, who said the panic in the United States had led to a suspension of specie payments across the Atlantic. Whether this panic arose from too great extravagance or overtrading, he would not discuss. Certain it was that it materially influenced the money market in this country, and caused a drain of specie, which the Bank of England found it necessary to check, by raising the rate of discount. But it was found that something more was required. They had not only to check the efflux of specie, but also to allay alarm. The Chancellor of the Exchequer availed himself of a former experience, an experience against which the judgment of two committees that had since sat on the subject had not suggested any complaint or any alteration. He suspended the operation of the Bank Charter. They saw the result. It had been the same as in 1847; confidence was restored, apprehension allayed, credit resumed its former vigour. But this suspension had not decided the question of the currency, so called. It merely showed the way to further investigation. The limit of the Act of 1844 might be too narrow, but it did not follow that therefore they should have an uncontrolled and therefore inconvertible currency. The causes, however, of the recent state of things, the paralysis of commercial credit, called for inquiry. It might be necessary to provide checks against speculation; to affix limits to trade-adventuring, fatally consequent as was upon such speculations the distress of the working classes, which all began now to dread as being imminent.

Lord Carew seconded the address, and congratulated the country on the fact that the commerce and industry of the sister island had not been inconvenienced at all to the same degree by the commercial distress which had prevailed on this side of the Channel.

The Earl of Derby said that he had had thirty-six years of political life, abounding in periods of strong political excitement, of commercial distress and agricultural distress, of dangerous wars, of internal tumults—a revolutionary spirit abroad, religious agitations at home; but all these had come singly. Now, all calamities

had come together in most disastrous complication. The chief object of their being called together at that period was to take into consideration the Bank Charter Act. They were to pass a Bill of Indemnity because what had been done with the Bill of 1844 in 1847 had again become necessary in 1857. Before an Indemnity Bill passed he should require to know under whose advice ministers had acted, what heads of commercial firms had they consulted—had they been counselled by the directors of the Bank of England? The violation of the act in 1857 had not produced the same result as the suspension of the measure in 1847. However, if Government considered the act of 1844 aggravated the difficulty in time of pressure, did they mean to continue that act while they sought an act of indemnity for necessarily violating it? What! permanently continue an act that they knew they must from time to time violate? Ought not the act to contain a dispensing and relaxing power within itself? He hoped the Government would make up their minds, and speak out frankly their intention. He hoped they would not have any more committees, to collect evidence, and talk, and decide nothing. After referring to the distressed condition of the operatives, and instancing Manchester, where 211 mills out of 283 were either working short time or closed, and nearly twice as many operatives were out of work as were in employment, the noble earl said he should like to hear from ministers the cause of the present derangement of commercial affairs, at such a period of the boasted expansion of our commerce!

Earl Granville defended the course pursued by the Government in regard to the suspension of the Bank Act as a step which he declared had only been taken when its urgent necessity had been shown, and by which only the commerce of the country had been saved from the most serious and dangerous embarrassments. As to any change in the Charter Act, he could say that it was not the intention of Her Majesty's Government to propose any alteration of that law, though it would be submitted to a committee of the House of Commons, who would also inquire into the causes which had led to its present suspension.

Earl Grey had heard with regret that there was no immediate intention on the part of the Government to propose any alteration in the Bank Act of 1844. If they set the precedent of suspending the acts at any time upon a pressure, it would be useless; but if it were not to be in abeyance let it be settled by Parliament by whom and under what circumstances the suspension should take place. His objection upon this subject was that the issue of paper money should be distinctly taken by the State as its own duty, and that the trade in it should be thrown open to competition. He believed the Bank Act, from this, its second suspension, had become a nullity, and ought therefore to be struck out of the statute book.

Lord Overstone said the interference of Government in currency matters was to be defended. Government were bound to supply the means of currency, but he did not say they were to create money. It was doubtful whether the relaxing of the Act of 1844 was consonant with the maintenance of its principles. It was a subject for grave consideration under the light thrown upon its action by recent circumstances. They were now, however, suffering from two disturbing causes—the vicious system of banking in the United States, and the false system of credit of late fostered in this country. That must be put down by legislation, or down must go the whole of our monetary system. Less trade and enough money, should be the maxim of commercial men.

The Earl of Eglinton thought that the Government ought to have a permissive power to relax the Bank Charter Act.

Lord Monteagle was prepared to give his entire approval to an Act of Indemnity, and he believed that if the Government had not authorised an over-issue, they would have had a stoppage of the Bank. At the same time he urged their lordships not to allow the Bank Act to remain in its present unsatisfactory state.

The address was then agreed to.

In the House of Commons the address in reply to Her Majesty's speech was moved by

Mr. Wykeham Martin, who commended the course taken by the Government in submitting the decision by which they had authorised a violation of the Bank Act

of 1844 to the judgment of Parliament. Although the main provisions of that act were satisfactory, the recent panic, in his opinion, justified the Government in issuing the letter which sanctioned a departure from the existing law.

Mr. Akroyd seconded the address. The three main subjects were the commercial distress, the events in India, and the proposed Reform Bill. As a manufacturer, he felt most on the first of these subjects. A few months ago no alarm existed in the manufacturing districts. The first symptom of danger was seen in the month of October, when the Bank of England first raised the rate of discount. The storm, after this, proceeded apace, many wrecks took place, till the panic was at its height in November, when the Government issued their letter authorising the Bank of England to extend its issues. But for this the trade of the country would have been at a dead lock. He compared the state of the money market in 1847 with that of 1857, to prove that the situation was more critical in the latter year. He adverted at some length to the details of trade and commerce, by which the present situation was brought about.

Mr. Disraeli said the anxiety felt by the country ought, no doubt, to be felt by the ministry. Yet, six days after they had fixed the prorogation of Parliament to the 18th of December, they felt themselves necessitated to authorise the violation of the law by the Bank of England. The seconder of the address had stated that the danger began in the middle of October. How was it, then, that on the 4th of November they had prorogued Parliament to the 18th of December? What was the ministry thinking about at this time? How was it they overlooked the impending danger to commerce? They had a special minister of trade who was a member of the cabinet, who must have told them at the time that trade was never in a more healthy condition, and the ministry must have believed this when they took the course they then adopted. At present they assembled Parliament to discuss in an incidental manner what ought to be naturally and deliberately discussed. A bill of indemnity was a serious matter, and should not be granted, except upon most serious consideration. In 1847 there was not an actual, though there was a virtual violation of the law, inasmuch as the Government of that day recommended a violation of the law. At that time they were told that immense calamities would have ensued but for the interference of the Government. Yet, from the evidence of high authority, ten years afterwards, that the Bank of England not only did not require, but protested against the Government interference. How could they tell that the same circumstances had not now occurred? He should infer that the Bank had made no such appeal, and when the Government asked for a bill of indemnity, the least they could ask was a frank explanation of all the circumstances under which the Government pursued its actual policy. It was shown by evidence that many men of the highest authority had given opinions hostile to the Act of 1844, and it was the duty of the Government on these conflicting opinions to have a distinct and definite judgment. He regretted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was about to move in committee for a bill of indemnity—this was what they did in 1847—thus evading the duty of the minister to propound his own clear opinions, and he supposed that in 1867 they would have to go through the same ordeal. They had appointed committee after committee to inquire into the subject of the Bank Charter, and now they were to have another committee upon the most important subject that could interest the country. Were the ministers going to stand by the Act of 1844, or were they not? If they were, he should hesitate before he agreed to the bill of indemnity. But if they were prepared to propose amendments in that act, they should grant the bill of indemnity without reserve, and await with anxiety the decision of the ministry. But were they, after all the difficulties which had occurred, to follow the same fruitless course which they had followed heretofore? If they re-appointed the Bank Committee—which he hoped they would not—what would they gain but a new edition of the admirable writings of Lord Overstone and Mr. Tooke. At a time when it was most necessary to settle this question, they were to allow it to drift on till the occurrence of fresh calamities. Under these circumstances, he trusted the Government would give a more definite answer.

Lord Palmerston said that there was nothing on the 4th of November to excite any apprehension in the minds of the Government, and they therefore prorogued Parliament to the usual time, knowing that if any unforeseen event rendered it

necessary, Parliament could be assembled at an earlier time. When they adopted the measure regarding the Bank they did it under the pressure of necessity, and with the feeling that the law should not be violated lightly, and without the utmost consideration.

The address was then agreed to.

On Friday, December 4, the House of Commons having resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bank Charter Act of 1844—

The Chancellor of the Exchequer moved that the chairman be directed to ask for leave to bring in a Bill to Indemnify the Governor and Company of the Bank of England in respect of certain Issues of their Notes, and to confirm such Issues. The right hon. gentleman stated the nature of the existing law as regarded banks of issue, and dwelt at some length upon the commercial circumstances which rendered it, in his opinion, necessary for the Government to authorise an infraction of that law in order to prevent the serious consequences which were likely to supervene upon the monetary panic which was daily increasing. He contrasted the imminence of the peril in 1847 with the still greater imminence of that of the present time, and said that if the Government of that day were held to have exercised a sound discretion, it was clear that *à fortiori*, the present Government was still more justified in the course it had pursued. He disclaimed having been at all influenced by any mercantile pressure exercised upon the Government—they were only acted upon by the influence of facts, and had they not adopted the course they had in writing to the Bank directors, the consequences, he believed, would have been fatal, for the Bank must have postponed the payment of its issues to the country banks. They had taken the earliest opportunity of calling Parliament together, to ask for a bill of indemnity, and in that bill it was proposed that the indemnity should limit the excess of issue to twenty-eight days after the meeting of Parliament. He also proposed the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the operations of the Bank Acts of 1844 and 1845, not believing that the necessity for following up the inquiry of last session was at all obviated by anything which had since taken place, for the committee had not at all entered upon the inquiry with respect to the Scotch and Irish banks.

Mr. Gladstone said he would not oppose the Bill of Indemnity, but he had strong doubts as to the propriety of reappointing the committee of last session. They had learned more by the experience of the last few weeks than by all the inquiries of committees, or all they could inquire into for years. The question of the currency had made as many lunatics as love. It was in its nature eternal, and if they re-appointed the committee they would find at the end of the session that it would recommend its re-appointment the following session. The present was the most favourable time that could be seized upon to pass an opinion upon the Act of 1844, which had been successful as far as regarded the objects for which it was enacted, and he hoped that ministers would be prepared, on the re-assembling of Parliament, to take a practical course as regarded its amendment, or he might rather say, completion.

Mr. Spooner, in reply to an observation of Mr. Gladstone's, said, he would enter the committee, not with a view to propound any scheme of his own, or as a "currency teacher," but simply to ascertain the cause of the recent crisis, and to consider of a remedy for the evil. For his own part, he would give no quarter to the Acts of 1819 and 1844, for they never could go back to what those acts appeared to indicate—a return to a metallic currency. They never could go back to a metallic currency without destroying the whole commerce of the country. So far from establishing payments in gold, these acts only took away the power of asking for payment in gold. The hon. gentleman contended that our monetary laws were really the cause of all the recent evils which had occurred, and the minister who had arrested those evils by over-stepping the law was entitled to a bill of indemnity. Unless, however, the cause of the evil was obviated they would ere long have to deal with the recurrence of the same evil in, perhaps, an aggravated form. The Government had done quite right in acting as it had done, but they should so

frame the law itself as to do away with the unconstitutional principle of maintaining a law to be abrogated at the discretion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. C. Gilpin contended that the recent pressure was to be attributed to over-trading and over-banking, for which the Act of 1844 afforded no remedy. On the contrary, unless that act were temporarily suspended, the consequences must be fearful to contemplate. The question, therefore, was, if this power should remain in the hands of the Government, to be exercised or not as they might deem fit. In his opinion, it would be better to place it in the hands of the Bank directors, and unless they adopted that course they must be driven to the adoption of a metallic currency.

Mr. Henley would give a cheerful support to the bill of indemnity, but it was necessary to ask why any necessity had arisen for such a bill? There was one thing very clear, that no one had the hardihood to assert that the Act of 1844 should be maintained in its integrity. He was in favour of maintaining the convertibility of the bank note, but he did not believe that that convertibility was secured by the Act of 1844.

Lord John Russell said he was very well satisfied with what had been done by the Government—he was pretty well satisfied with the Act of 1844, but he was entirely satisfied with the proposal to re-appoint the committee of inquiry. The Acts of 1819 and 1844 had secured the convertibility of paper money, and he thought no case had been made out against the operation of these acts; for the evils which had taken place might be more fairly attributable to over-trading and other causes. If the power to suspend the operation of the Act of 1844 was to be left with the Government, to be exercised at its discretion, the public would assume that it would be suspended whenever the pressure occurred, and would act accordingly. If there was to be a relaxation, the time of such relaxation should be laid down in the act, and not left to the discretion either of the Government or the Bank of England.

Mr. Disraeli said the Act of 1844 was intended to have a limited application as a currency measure, but the machinery of the act had compelled the managers of the currency to treat circumstances of a totally opposite character in precisely the same way. A foreign drain and a domestic drain were to be met in the same manner. In fact, capital and currency were confounded, and a law intended to apply only to the latter was found to apply in a most oppressive manner to the former; so oppressively, indeed, that the Government was every now and then called upon to suspend its operation. He called upon the House to consider the injustice of those suspensions to those who could have held on had they come a little sooner. He held in his hand a list of 85 firms, which represented a capital of over 40 millions, all of which were obliged to succumb a few weeks, and some of them a few days, and even a few hours, before the letter was sent to the Bank. What must these firms have felt when they considered that they were sacrificed to the Act of 1844, while others in similar circumstances were saved by the appearance of that letter? On the previous evening he had forgotten that the bill of indemnity was for the Bank directors and not for the ministry. The Bank directors had acted with great propriety, and he could not refuse them an indemnity; but he could not agree to the reappointment of the committee of inquiry, believing that they had a surplus of every sort of information on the subject. The time had arrived when they should pass a law which would render applications like the present hereafter unnecessary. If, therefore, the right hon. gentleman would fix a day for moving his committee, he would move an amendment to the effect that the House should proceed at once to legislate upon the subject. He would suggest next Friday for that purpose, and in the meantime would give every facility to the bill of indemnity.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said the right hon. gentleman had met the proposal of the Government very fairly, and he would, therefore, move the second reading of the indemnity bill on Monday, and move the committee on Friday next.

After a few words from Mr. Cardwell,

The resolution was agreed to, and leave having been given to bring in the bill, it was brought in accordingly, and read a first time.

On Monday, December 7, the Chancellor of the Exchequer moved the second reading of the indemnity bill.

Mr. Gladstone wished to call attention to two points. The first related to the wording of the first clause, by which it was proposed to enact that all the issues of the Bank of England notes, and all acts done in relation thereto, in consequence of the letter of the head of the Government, should be confirmed and made valid. It appeared to him that there was something anomalous in the legislature confirming acts of which they knew nothing; and he suggested that the act should simply provide that the Bank should be indemnified with regard to all matters which should be certified by the Commissioners of the Treasury. His second point branched into three parts—1st. Whether the profits of the issues would go, not to the Bank, but to the Government? 2ndly. Were those profits to be computed from issues or from discounts, the former being 1 per cent. and the latter 10? 3rdly. Whether those profits were to be reckoned from the issues as they came from the issue department, or only from the issues beyond the legal issues which went forth to the public? He did not wish to press the question if it could be more conveniently answered another night.

Sir H. Willoughby, before the bill was passed, wished to hear whether the Bank of England had shown fair play, or whether, on the contrary, information had not been divulged which enabled parties in the market to gain an enormous profit?

Mr. Malins regretted that the letter was not issued earlier, but he urged that Government ought not to have suffered the last session to have passed without arming themselves with the necessary powers to meet the emergency which had taken place, which he foresaw, and of which he gave the Government warning on the 11th of May last. He wished that the enactment of the bill was absolute, instead of being clogged with the condition that it should exist only as long as the minimum rate of discount should be 10 per cent.

Mr. F. Crossley said the manufacturers in the North felt highly indebted to the Government for the course which they had taken; and he suggested whether some elastic power could be introduced into the law—something in the shape of a "sliding scale"—which would obviate the evil arising from the existing necessity of bills of indemnity. In his opinion the nation ought to have only one bank of issue, and such bank ought to be paid for its trouble, so that the profit arising from the issue should belong to the nation, and not to individuals or to firms.

Mr. Phillips thought the crisis was attributable to three causes, the effects of the wars with Russia and India on commerce, the reprehensible conduct of certain banks at Liverpool and Glasgow, and then the similar conduct of the great bill-broking houses in London.

Mr. Newdegate concurred in praising the Government for their interference in November; but suggested that the Act of 1844 required several amendments.

Mr. Buchanan believed that the crisis had arisen out of a want of credit, not from a want of currency; and he believed that the operation of the Act of 1844, although it had been beneficial in diminishing the issue of notes, had operated injuriously as regards credit. In the systems of banking, both English and Scottish, he thought many amendments might be made. Having vindicated the course which he had taken with regard to a "confidence meeting" in the Western Bank of Scotland at Glasgow, the hon. gentleman remarked that if the recent changes in the rate of discount were to remain as a normal state of commerce, it would become necessary to review the foundations of all our social institutions. (Hear, hear.) It became statesmen to consider this point; and he was of opinion that it might be desirable to invest a power of relaxation, in cases of monetary stringency, in the Bank itself. (Hear.)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer then replied to the various questions which had been propounded during the discussion. First, in reply to the honourable baronet the member for Evesham, he stated that he knew of no combination or confederacy of bill-brokers or discount houses to force on the Bank of England such a state of embarrassment as would render necessary the interference of Government. In reply to Mr. Gladstone he stated that in extending the indemnity to the acts consequent on the letter, he acted on precedent as old as the time of Mr. Pitt, in the last

century. As to the other questions of the right hon. gentleman, he thought it desirable that an answer should be withheld till the transactions of the Bank resumed their flow in their ordinary channels. He denied that the currency had been depreciated by the issue of notes under the Government letter, and he hoped there would be no opposition to the motion before the House.

After a few words from Mr. Spooner and Mr. H. Ingram, the bill was read a second time.

On Wednesday, December 9, the Chancellor of the Exchequer moved the third reading of the bill.

Mr. Hadow said that the virtual repeal of the Act of 1844 had given great satisfaction to his constituents, but he thought it was now the duty of the Government to legislate on the subject, that a repetition of this proceeding might be avoided for the future.

Mr. Adams inquired of the Chancellor of the Exchequer from whom the representations came upon which the Government acted in suspending the operation of the Act of 1844.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer repeated his former statement, that it was not in consequence of any representation from the Bank, or from mercantile firms, that the Government were induced to issue their letter. The Government acted upon authentic knowledge of the position of the Bank of England, and their anticipation of their tendency if no steps were taken by the Government in the matter. No complaints were made to him that the Bank of England had refused discounts.

The bill was then read a third time and passed.

On the same day the bill was carried up to the House of Lords and read a first time, it being arranged that the debate should take place on the third reading.

On Thursday, December 10th, the bill was read a second time, when—

The Earl of Derby said he was not present on the preceding day, when the understanding was entered into, but he had no intention to interfere with it. It was important that the measure should not be allowed to pass without some discussion; but, on the other hand, there was no intention on his side of the house to interfere with the passing of the measure. He begged, however, to call attention to one part of the bill that required explanation. He meant that part which requires that the rate of discount shall be kept up during the whole period of the suspension of the act at the full amount of 10 per cent. He could readily understand that at the period when the suspension took place it was a necessary precaution to take that the rate of discount should be kept up as high as 10 per cent., but it was now a somewhat different question, when they not only asked for indemnity for the past, but also for the continuance of the suspension of the act so long as twenty-eight days after the meeting of Parliament in February. He feared that such a provision would create some unnecessary suffering amongst the smaller class of traders; and though he was not prepared to move an amendment, he thought the Government would act more wisely if they left a discretionary power in the Bank instead of imposing upon it an arbitrary restriction to keep up the rate of discount. He hoped the Government would explain their reason for taking the course adopted by them, if they should resolve to persevere in it, and he could not help thinking that it would be productive of much evil.

On Friday, December 11th,

Lord Stanley of Alderley, in moving the third reading of this bill, briefly explained the provisions of the Act of 1844 in reference to the Bank of England. Having explained the circumstances under which the suspension of the act took place in 1847, he quoted the opinion of Sir R. Peel to show that, though the act was passed for the purpose of saving the country from financial convulsions, it could not prevent undue speculation, and the calamitous consequences which resulted from it.

(Hear, hear.) The act had certainly succeeded in its two main objects—it had guaranteed a paper issue, and it had prevented the excess of that issue; but, circumstanced as this country was, it was not in human power to prevent commercial disasters. Having traced the history of the commercial crisis through which the country was passing, and which commenced with the breaking of the Borough Bank in Liverpool, he contrasted the condition of the Bank of England in 1847, at the time the act was suspended, with the condition of the Bank this year, when the Government letter issued, and contended that but for that letter the country would have been plunged in the greatest commercial distress. Having vindicated at considerable length the course taken by the Government, he said it would be a matter of consideration whether it would be desirable to lay down new propositions so as to define the precise circumstances under which relaxation should be permitted, and whether that power of relaxation should be exercised on the responsibility of the Government, or whether it should be left in the hands of the Bank, subject to the censure or approval of Parliament. In the bill before their lordships, there was a provision that it should continue in force twenty-eight days after the meeting of Parliament in February. If, in the interval, the Bank should not require to exercise the extraordinary powers with which it was invested, it would not be obliged to continue the rate of discount at 10 per cent. The bill was not, therefore, open to the objection which had been suggested by the Earl of Derby on a former night. (Hear, hear.) Now that the act had been twice suspended, it was urged in some quarters that it had completely failed; but he denied the soundness of this argument, and regretted that there should be any one who desired to get rid of it. He admitted that there were questions connected with banking which should be considered, and one of these was that the Bank of England note should be made a legal tender, both in Ireland and Scotland. (Hear, hear.) The publication of the accounts of the Bank every week was also a question worthy of consideration. Another question of importance was an inquiry into the cause of the late commercial distress, and an inquiry into the manner in which joint stock banks were administered. He should be glad, as soon as Parliament met again, to see a committee in operation which should enter fully into these questions. (Hear, hear.) After a few general remarks the noble lord concluded by calling upon the house to give a third reading to the bill.

Earl Grey said he was glad to find that the views of the Government were somewhat altered with regard to the act. On a former occasion they were informed that the Government did not contemplate legislation; they were now told that the Government saw several particulars in which the existing law might be improved.

Earl Stanley of Alderley: I said these were all questions deserving the greatest consideration; but I hardly went to the extent you state.

Earl Grey then proceeded to contend that the act having been suspended twice, its moral force was gone, and the provision of limitation virtually repealed. (Hear, hear.) Even with convertibility, experience had proved that there might be a depreciation of currency. He was persuaded that if they maintained the principle that when a certain amount of distress arose they might violate the act, many years would not go over until they would have a suspension of cash payments. In conclusion, he impressed on the Government the necessity of taking the subject into their consideration during the recess, o that when Parliament re-assembled they might bring forward some measure on their own responsibility.

The bill was then read a third time and passed.

On Saturday, December 12th, the bill received the Royal Assent.

THE BANK CHARTER ACT.

In the House of Commons, on Friday, December 11,—

The Chancellor of the Exchequer moved for a select committee to inquire into the operations of the Bank Act of 1844 (7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32), and of the Bank Acts for Ireland and Scotland of 1845 (8th and 9th Victoria, caps. 37 and 38).

He said he thought the house must be greatly indebted to the right honourable gentleman opposite (Mr. Disraeli, for having suggested that the discussion on the Bank indemnity bill should not interfere with the question which was now to come on for discussion. Undoubtedly, it had been for the inconvenience of the house, lest that subject should not be considered in reference to this question, and he might be permitted, as the bill had been read a third time, to express his sense of the fair and candid treatment which that question had received on both sides of the house. Gentlemen in all parts of the house had, as it seemed to him, shown a disposition to avoid all captious criticism. They took the question on its merits, and seemed resolved to make due allowance for the difficult position of the Government, necessarily and suddenly called upon to settle a question which called for immediate decision. (Hear, hear.) Adverting to the indemnity bill, he might call the attention of the house to the fact that he did not venture to give any positive assurance that the commercial crisis had reached its termination. He expressed his confidence that the Bank of England was steadily recovering its position. In proof of that statement he might mention what was the condition of the Bank of England yesterday. On November 11 the bullion in the Bank was £6,666,000. On November 12, the day on which the letter was issued, the amount was £6,524,000. Last night it was £8,200,000. This statement did not include some provincial returns which had not been received. On November 11, the reserve was £1,462,000. On November 12, it was £581,000. Last night it was £4,660,000, so that, deducting two millions of issue, there would remain in the Bank a reserve of £2,660,000. The proposition he had now to make was for the reappointment of the committee of last session, a course which that committee itself recommended. The question the house would that night have to consider was, whether circumstances had since arisen which rendered it unnecessary that that committee should be reappointed. (Hear, hear). On a former evening the right honourable gentleman the member for the University of Oxford (Mr. Gladstone) spoke with some want of appreciation of the evidence which had been adduced before the committee; but he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) having been a member of that committee, could hardly subscribe to the doctrine that the evidence laid before it was worthless. (Hear, hear). He now came to the amendment which was to be moved by the right honourable gentleman opposite (Mr. Disraeli). What he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) understood the committee of last session meant to do was to inquire into the country issues of England, and also into the issues of Scotland and Ireland, because the subjects referred to the committee were not merely the Act of 1844 but the Acts of 1845, with regard to Scotland and Ireland. How did the amendment of the right honourable gentleman affect that state of things? The effect of that amendment, if adopted, would be to prevent the committee coming to any resolution as to the evidence taken last session in reference to Irish and Scotch issue, but upon these points the right honourable gentleman was silent. Upon these points he thought the amendment failed to meet the exigencies of the case. The country did not stand now as it expected to stand when that committee ceased its labours. Since that time we had had a commercial crisis; and it seemed to be a fair subject for the consideration of the committee whether the Act of 1844, in its general operation, had received any light from the events of the last few months; whether there had been any connection between those events and the Act of 1844. And therefore he intended to move as an instruction to the committee to inquire into the causes of the recent commercial distress, and how far it had affected the issue of notes payable on demand. (Hear, hear.) The right honourable gentleman proceeded to deal with the system of holding money on call, which he believed to be a good one; but at the same time one liable to great abuses, and containing elements of danger. He believed that it was to a great extent to the abuse of that system that the present crisis was to be attributed. Another practice from which evil arose was that of paying interest on amounts lodged for temporary purposes in banks. It was clear from the words of the 25th clause of the act that the entire prohibition of bank notes by private banks in England was in the contemplation of Sir Robert Peel. His "immediate contemplation" was a single bank of issue in England. That was made manifest by that clause. That was one of the questions investigated by the committee of last session. The actuaries examined before the committee were divided in opinion

1844 was under consideration, that proposition was also considered; but Sir Peel did not think it advisable then to adopt it. It might, however, be red as a part of the development of that act to establish such a central bank. w was it proposed to carry it out? Was it to be by paying Government tors and the public dividends in notes of the Government, or was it d to be a kind of agency office in London for the whole country? On that n Lord Overstone said it might be very inconvenient to place the monetary in the hands of the Government, and he was unfavourable to it. Mr. rd was of opinion that the great bulk of the dividends could not be discharged Government without an enormously increased amount of circulation. (Hear,

The Bank of England paid the dividends with a stroke of the pen, because idends due to a banker and his constituents were carried in one line to his and thus three or four millions of dividends might be paid in one line, and as the advantage of the issue and banking department being in one establish-

He (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) saw great advantages in the present f things, and he doubted whether any economy to the public and security to e-holder would be obtained by the exclusive right of issue by the Govern-

There was no doubt the right of coinage was the prerogative of the Crown; Crown was only a manufacturer, and nothing more. (Hear, hear.) The ent bullion to the Mint to be coined, and the Bank issued the bullion in igns, and that issue was conducted in the same way as the issue of notes. fore, those who built upon the fact, the possession of bullion by the Crown, othing to stand upon. He could not see at present that there was anything called upon the Government to resort to any compulsory measures for sup- g the issue of country banks and establishing a central bank. The right rable gentleman opposite (Mr. Disraeli) said the Government were now to enunciate a policy upon this subject, and in answer to that he (the ellor of the Exchequer) would say that by common consent it was allowed e recent crisis had been caused, not by a derangement of the currency, but derangement of capital. This being so, why were they at this moment to be upon to declare a currency policy? There was no more reason for it now here was at the end of last session. (Hear, hear.) Even if it were admitted e late crisis had a connection with the currency, that was no reason for inter- with the Act of 1844. Why, take the case of the Habeas Corpus Act. might be a state of things rendering it necessary for the suspension of that it was that a reason why the act should be re-modelled? Take the case of ppression of the freedom of the press in India; without arguing that question, be be found absolutely necessary to suspend that freedom, but that would be

in favour of the discretion being given to the Government, but he was strongly in favour of the act remaining in its present state. That was his opinion on June 19 of the present year. Lord Overstone, in 1848, was of opinion that if a discretion must be exercised, it should be left entirely to the responsibility of the Government, without any legislative power being taken for the purpose. The discretion, he said, could not be defined by legislation. His (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) own opinion was, looking to the precedents of 1848, and looking at the indemnity bill just passed, that if there were a suspending power given by statute the practical state of things would not be changed from what they were at present, and therefore he was in favour of the present state of things remaining as they are. There was another remedy which might be resorted to in extraordinary cases, and which had been resorted to in extraordinary circumstances—he meant the issue of commercial Exchequer bills.—(Hear, hear.) If Parliament were sitting such a step might be taken; but it must be remembered that Exchequer bills were not money, but securities for money; and what was wanted in a time of crisis was money, and not securities. It had been proposed that the Government should issue Treasury notes in the nature of bank notes, and making them a legal tender. That was open to several objections. He would be sorry to take steps to issue inconvertible notes of any kind; and if they were made convertible only, the difference from the present bank notes would be in name only, and not in reality. (Hear, hear.) He then came to the question of the enlargement of the limit of fourteen millions and a half, or, as it was sometimes called, a substitution of sixteen millions, or a larger number of notes to be issued by the Government in place of credit notes by the Bank of England; and it was alleged that if the notes were sufficiently increased the difficulties under which we were now suffering would not arise. Now that plan of issuing a large mass of inconvertible notes was brought by several witnesses before the committee of last session, and in the former debate he happened erroneously, it seemed, to ascribe to his honourable friend opposite the member for North Warwickshire (Mr. Spooner) the opinion that he was in favour of inconvertible notes. His honourable friend had altogether disavowed that opinion; but he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) thought that his error was not an unnatural one when he recalled to his honourable friend's attention the evidence which was given by one who before the committee (Mr. Twells) was understood to represent the opinions of the honourable gentleman. Now it was the opinion of Mr. Twells that it would be policy to enable either the Bank of England or the Government to issue twenty millions instead of fourteen of bank notes. If, continued the right honourable gentleman, Mr. Twells's recommendation was not to be adopted, perhaps, it might be said that the fourteen millions might be increased to sixteen millions or some such sum. He admitted there was nothing in the Act of 1844 to bind Parliament to the particular limit of fourteen millions—(hear)—but he doubted whether the advantages anticipated from the witnesses he had quoted would result. He thought it an entire delusion to suppose that the Bank of England could induce the public to take more notes by augmenting the paper currency, which was the course recommended by the school to which Mr. Twells belonged. (Hear.) Then it was said that this increase would produce a larger reserve in the banking department, and that in a moment of crisis the necessity of resorting to extraordinary measures by the executive would be avoided. Would that be the effect? (Hear, hear.) Certainly not, if the Bank of England diminished the bullion in reserve in proportion to the additional power to issue on securities. (Hear, hear.) Then came the question, whether it would be expedient to require some additional guarantee for the issue of country banks in England, and the Scotch and Irish issues; and whether, in the case of the Bank of England, they should impose a condition that its issues should remain on securities. (Hear, hear.) These were questions which might well be deserving investigation by the committee, the appointment of which the right honourable gentleman concluded by moving.

Mr. Disraeli rose, and said he thought the arguments of the right honourable gentleman rested on an unsound basis, for the right honourable gentleman said that the present commercial distress had not been produced by the currency law, but by the dislocation of capital and credit. If that were so, why had the Act of 1844

been violated? (Hear, hear.) Why had Parliament been summoned at this most unusual period?—He should have thought that Parliament would have been expected to express some sort of sympathy with the present state of commercial distress. (Hear, hear). Instead of that being the function of Parliament, it would seem, from the view taken by the Government, that they were simply to be called upon to record their sanction to an act of Parliament. (Hear, hear). The language of the members of Government was far different at the late election, when the welfare of the country was loudly talked of. (Hear, hear.) It appeared that the House was expected to separate without any expression of sympathy for the sufferings which the commercial world had undergone. The first day of the session ought really not to have been allowed to pass without this solemn recognition; but he had not thought it expedient to mix up this question, great though it was, with the question of the indemnity bill. (Hear, hear.) He denied that anything had fallen from him on a former occasion depreciatory of the labours of the late committee. On the contrary, he fully appreciated their labours, which were invaluable, and, because invaluable, had sufficiently exhausted the subject. (Hear, hear). The subject which had been delegated to that committee was fully ripe for decision—(hear, hear); and the Chancellor of the Exchequer seemed to have made up his mind upon all points except upon the important one of maintaining the present law in its integrity. (Hear.) But how could the moral influence of that law, after the recent suspension, be maintained? (Hear.) He (Mr. Disraeli) wished that the House was bound to come to some definite decision—(hear, hear)—and if the amendment was adopted, the House would be placed in an intelligible situation. His amendment would have the effect of allowing legislation to go on on this great subject, not to throw it in a deadlock. (Hear, hear.) By remitting this question to a select committee a padlock would be placed on the mouths of honourable members when they returned to their duties after the recess—(hear, hear)—for they would be told that an inquiry was going on, and must not be disturbed. (Hear, hear.) He remembered the commercial crisis of 1847, and of 1837, and he had read of the commercial crisis of 1825. But none of crises equalled in extent and variety that which occurred in the year 1857. In all of those cases some principal disturbing cause could be pointed out. (Hear.) Now there was hardly a country in the world in which commercial disturbance was not to be observed. It was rife in America; it affected the whole of the Baltic trade; it extended even to Spain and to the South of Germany. (Hear, hear.) In 1847 the failures of commercial houses amounted to seventeen millions; in 1857 it had reached the enormous sum of forty-five millions—(hear, hear)—and such a convulsion he considered was a legitimate subject for inquiry. (Hear, hear, and an ironical cheer from the liberal benches.) Yes, but separate that inquiry from an investigation into the banking laws. (Hear, hear.) He would now humbly state what he thought to be the cause of the recent commercial distress. The primary cause of the disturbance of capital and credit he traced to the great discoveries of the precious metals which had taken place of late years. He regarded the year 1852 as the culminating year. In 1851-52 we had an immense treasure in the Bank of England amounting to twenty-two millions. At that time there was an extremely low rate of interest—not more than 2 per cent., and these circumstances were not peculiar to England, but extended all over Europe. Since 1852, 180 or 190 millions of gold had been poured into Europe, and the consequence of this influx of treasure was the commencement of a gigantic scheme of public works. A new Paris had been built, and in Europe and America a rage for the investment of capital set in. As a superstructure to this description of speculation another sprang up—namely, speculation in shares of all descriptions. The Crédit Mobilier was formed in Paris, and that and other societies, the offshoot of it in other countries, had undergone the scrutiny and comment of the people of this country. For years had the state of things which had now reached a climax been accumulating. For years had convulsions in the commercial world been averted by the influx of gold; but he regarded the year 1857 as the culminating year, which all the galleons laden from Australia, all the argosies pouring in from California, could not avert. (Hear, hear.) On each occasion the crisis had been attributed to causes which could never have exercised over capital and credit an effect, the causes of which must have been so colossal in their character that no circulation

of bank-notes could ever have reached to such an amount as could have produced those results. It appeared to him that this was in consequence of a misapprehension, and in its solution alone should they ever find the means of delivering the country from these embarrassments. (Hear, hear.) He had always wondered why men would persist in such a confusion of ideas as to mistake capital for currency, and attribute to the least powerful instrument the most extensive results. The two schools, which differed on every other point, were agreed upon one. Lord Overstone, who did full justice to the value of bullion—(a laugh)—and his honourable friend behind him, who sufficiently estimated that of paper, widely as they differed on other points, were agreed that all commercial convulsions would be effectually prevented by a wise administration of the circulation of bank notes. He thought this might be accounted for, and in ascertaining the reasons for this difference and agreement, they might be advanced one step towards the solution of the difficulty. In 1826 the resumption of cash payments was followed by a fall in prices, and it was not surprising that those who suffered sharply at that time should attribute to the resumption of cash payments the great injury which was inflicted on them by the fall; but he believed that it had nothing whatever to do with it, and he did not think a problem in Euclid capable of completer demonstration. However, the opinion exercised considerable influence out of doors, and gave rise to what was called the Birmingham school, (Hear, hear.) The origin of the opposite school might be traced to the bullion committee. He did not mean to speak of the labours of the bullion committee otherwise than with the highest respect. They had vindicated that great principle so essential to the happiness and prosperity of a commercial community—the standard of value; they had shown that an over-issue of inconvertible paper might be depreciated, and was depreciated, though he thought it might be shown by incontrovertible arguments that the price of gold was raised by other circumstances than the depreciation of paper. But the bullion committee was no exception to the rule that humanity was liable to error, and it was probable that they might not be correct in everything. This was an age of progress. It was fifty years since the bullion committee was formed, and everything that had existed fifty years ago had been subject to change. The bullion committee could not see all the possible consequences of these acts and opinions, and after all the sharp experience of the last forty-seven years, and the great commercial convulsions, it was the height of absurdity to suppose that the science of currency was in the same state as when the report of that committee was presented. (Hear, hear.) The committee were right in saying that the inconvertible currency, by its over-issue, had produced depreciation; but they rashly extended that conclusion to bank notes convertible at par. The distinction was complete, and the difference might be established by facts. He called the attention of his friend the honourable member for Halifax, who was taking notes—(a laugh)—to three propositions which he considered to be irrefragably proven. 1st. That it was impossible that a bank note convertible at par could be depreciated; 2nd. That no issuer could press his circulation. And, 3rd. That prices could not be affected by any circulation of bank notes further than by an equal amount of metallic currency. He held that it was proved by the labours of committees of that house that there was a law affecting bank notes convertible at par, which prevented redundancy or inflation of circulation, and balanced issue and reflux, so as to make them matter of mathematical calculation. Gold, or paper money, by which he meant inconvertible notes, were introduced into the market as a medium of payment. They discharged their office, and fresh gold or paper as a medium of payment entered the market. Convertible bank notes, however, entered the market, not as a medium of payment, but as a loan upon which interest was paid, and often bank notes might return to effect the payment. Thus issue and reflux were kept equal, and in the long run the balance would always be maintained. The commercial convulsion of 1825 was attributed by the ministry of the day to the over-circulation of notes by the country banks; for they had not at the time the advantages of the evidence which had since destroyed the theories of the honourable member for Halifax, who was taking notes. (Renewed laughter.) The right honourable gentleman then referred to the returns of the circulation of notes for twenty-five years, to show that the circulation was expanded at one time of the year, depressed at another, and at

another was at the medium; and that in the rural districts, where the notes chiefly circulated amongst the agriculturists, they precisely corresponded with the seasons of the year. In the spring, when the farmer bought his stock, and paid his rent, it was increased; in the winter, when agriculture was dead, it fell; and after the harvest it was equal. These phenomena proceeded with the regularity of agricultural phenomena. It was impossible for the issue to control it, as it depended on the wants of the locality. He might make an injudicious advance; but if that failed, it could not be ascribed to the circulation of bank-notes. (Hear, hear.) The commercial convulsion of 1837 was attributed to the over-issue of bank-notes by the joint-stock banks, which had been founded in consequence of the horrible sins of the country bankers, who had totally ruined the commerce of England, and severely affected that of the United States (a laugh); and the establishment of these joint-stock banks was to set everything perfectly right. (A laugh.) This time, however, it was the over-issue of bank notes by those joint-stock banks. The joint-stock banks established in 1833, though not of equal magnitude with those of the present day, were of no mean character. They numbered 107, with a paid up capital of £15,000,000, and a subscribed capital of nearly ten times that amount; and had 478 branches and agencies in the principal towns and seats of trade and agriculture. They were established with the expectation that they would make a great profit by the issue of bank notes. It was found that in two years their circulation had increased by one million and a half; and to this over-issue, this inflated circulation, was attributed the disturbance of the credit of England and of the United States. They showed that their business had increased, but that was not listened to; but, to his mind, there was nothing more absurd than to attribute such results to an increase—to a mere cause. In that emergency the act was suspended. The joint-stock banks, however, had supplanted the country banks, and, to a great extent, even the branches of the Bank of England; so that the aggregate circulation was in that year absolutely diminished. The Northern and Central Bank, which failed for a million and a half, was a bank of issue; but its circulation was only £30,000 of notes; and it was ridiculous to attribute its failure to that small amount of circulation, and not to the injudicious advances of one and a half million. (Hear, hear.) Of the joint-stock banks which had recently failed, the majority were not banks of issue at all, and those that were only circulated to similar small amounts. As to the Scotch banks, there was no country which afforded such facilities for banking, and in which it was carried on so extensively as in Scotland; and yet the circulation had diminished every year. In 1847, the only victims upon whom the blame could be fastened—the only cause that could be alleged—was to the management of the bank note circulation; but what showed that they had no control over the circulation was that when the crisis took place in 1847, the withdrawal of seven millions of bullion had no effect on the circulation, for the number of bank notes in the hands of the public remained the same; and when the Bank Act was suspended in that year, the amount still remained the same. It was said the Bank directors were in favour of the existing act. He had every respect for the opinion of the Bank directors, but would like to refer to the appendix to the blue book already referred to. It was a very entertaining volume (a laugh), notwithstanding its unprepossessing title. The right honourable gentleman then proceeded in a very humorous strain to refer to a correspondence between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Bank directors, in which they, almost without exception, declared themselves in favour of the Bank Act, attributing the crisis of 1847 to the want of proper knowledge of the principles of banking, but assuring the Chancellor of the Exchequer that they were now so much better acquainted with the subject that a recurrence of the disasters of 1847 was impossible. (Laughter.) It was only after the crisis of 1857 that this was published. He did not know how the Chancellor of the Exchequer could do it. (A laugh.) He (Mr. Disraeli) could not have done it. (Renewed laughter.) It was said the book was a folio, and had cost a great deal of money; but the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his friends ought rather to have subscribed the amount among them, and withdrawn it, than publish it at such a moment. (Renewed laughter.) He expressed a hope that this discussion would be the death blow to the committee of last year, which it was now proposed to reappoint. It was in the regulation of the rate of discount that the beneficial

influence of the Bank of England might be exercised over the fortunes of this country; and, lastly, he would say it had become a great national object which statesmen ought to insist upon accomplishing, that there should be in the Bank of England a great treasure at the command of the directors, with which, in moments of emergency, it should be in their power to assist commercial distress, by insuring that there should be an active circulating medium to be exchanged for the real property of the country. (Hear, hear.) He was convinced they would be taking a step injurious to the country and to the character of the House of Commons if they evaded a statesmanlike settlement of the question on the present occasion. Committees of inquiry had entirely exhausted the subject; the question of issues by the Bank of England had received ample and sufficient investigation. He did not suppose that the House of Commons would come at once to an unanimous opinion, but the way to arrive sooner or later at an overwhelming opinion upon the subject was by discussion in Parliament. (Hear, hear.) Depend upon it, they would be adopting a course tending to the depreciation of the character of Parliament, if year after year, if crisis after crisis, if convulsion after convulsion, all that the House of Commons could do was to propose a reference to a select committee. (Hear, hear.) He was surprised to hear that one of the most eminent men in the country, and himself a peer of Parliament—he referred to Lord Overstone—had declared that, in his opinion, discussion upon this subject was inconvenient and injurious. He (Mr. Disraeli) was surprised that a man so eminent should pronounce an opinion upon the provident privileges of Englishmen. No, the time had come when they ought to arrive at some safe and satisfactory solution of this great question. And whatever was the consequence of the present motion, he felt sure he was only acting right in warning the House of Commons not to delegate its functions to a select committee, but to show the public that they were equal to the fulfilment of a great public duty. (Loud cheers.) The right hon. gentleman concluded by moving his amendment, "That, in the opinion of this house, no further inquiry is necessary into the operation of the Bank Act of 1844 (7th and 8th of Victoria, chap. 32.)"

Mr. Cardwell, rejoicing in the fact that the indemnity bill had received an unanimous vote, said the remaining question arising out of the monetary crisis was, should the operation of the Bank Acts be inquired into by a special committee. If, last session, it was deemed desirable to appoint a committee for such a purpose, *à fortiori*, recent events called for a continuation of that investigation, which the committee itself had reported to the House they regarded as incomplete. The committee having recommended their own resuscitation, in order that they might supplement their investigation of last year, he would vote for their re-appointment. In Hamburg, where there was a metallic currency, the pressure had been greater than even in England; and he doubted whether any peculiar kind of currency would be adequate to prevent a crisis, when its elements were ripe for operation. He vindicated the act of 1844 from the aspersions which had been cast upon it; and urged that, but for that act acting as an alarm bell, and calling the Government, in an emergency, to the aid of the Bank, the country would have arrived at the climax of a bank suspension. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Gladstone concurred in the warnings of his right honourable friend against retrogressive legislation, though he could not agree with the manner in which they were applied. The evidence on the subject had accumulated beyond the possibility of further information being obtained, and he did not think their ignorance upon what principle the Government intended the currency to be based was worthy of the dignity of Parliament. The Bank Act had failed on two occasions, and it could not stand as it was. They must look for a continuance of these crises, and he could not consent that they should be habitually met by a breach of the law of the land. (Hear.) The Act of 1844, which was damaged in 1847, was totally shattered in 1857. (Hear.) Lord Overstone had himself expressed an opinion that the time had now come when some elastic provisions should be inserted in the Act of 1844 to meet the pressure of a commercial panic. This he (Mr. Gladstone) understood as an avowal of the evils which must arise from a recurring violation of the law of the land, which left the power in the hands of the ministry to decide what houses should be ruined and what should be saved. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Much of the evil

in the late difficulties had arisen from the confusion which prevailed in the public mind between the functions of currency and banking. (Hear, hear.) People looked to the Bank to get them out of a financial difficulty, and he was afraid that this misapprehension could only be removed by the amendment of the Act of 1844. But all these disasters were to be postponed for further inquiry, though he saw nothing to prevent the Government from proposing to Parliament a measure when they met again after the recess, and he believed that such a measure would be introduced if the house did but signify that its opinion was in favour of such a proceeding. There were many subjects to go before the committee if the times were quiet and easy, but he contended that the late panic and the present distress were subjects for legislation. To overcrowd a committee was to stifle the inquiry. (Hear, hear.) The question now to be faced was what was the cause of the late crisis, and how far such disasters might be avoided for the future by legislation, and this subject he considered ripe for discussion, and one that ought to be discussed in that house. (Cheers.)

Mr. Malins declared that there was no need for further inquiry, as the hour of legislation had arrived, and stated his intention of supporting the amendment of his right honourable friend.

Mr. Horsfall thought the Act of 1844 required some amendment, and he was rejoiced to hear Mr. Gladstone state that he was prepared to agree to some alteration in it. If a committee could devise anything to prevent the recurrence of panics, they would accomplish what Sir Robert Peel held to be one of the chief objects of the measure.

Mr. Weguelin said that unless there was a feeling in the country that there was a power behind the Bank of England that would support it in making advances in times of emergency, there would, in moments of crises, be tenfold the panic than had been experienced. (Hear, hear.) He would vote cordially for the appointment of the committee. (Cries of "Divide.")

Mr. Blakemore, who was interrupted by cries of "Divide," advocated the application of a practical remedy for the evils experienced, in preference to the proposition of the Government.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer replied:—Nothing was more easy than to say "legislate," but the question was in what direction they were to legislate. He might hold certain opinions on the question before them, but it would not be proper for him, therefore, to dictate to the house, and consequently he desired to go into committee to see if his opinions could be supported by evidence.

The house then divided on the motion for the appointment of the committee—

For the motion	295
Against	117
Majority for the motion	178

The announcement was received with loud cheers.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer then moved that it be an instruction to the committee "to inquire into the causes of the late commercial distress, and to investigate how far it has been affected by the laws for regulating the issue of bank notes payable on demand."

The motion was agreed to.

REVIEW OF THE COTTON TRADE IN THE MANOR OF ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOV. 2ND, 1857. BY JOHN ROSS COULTHART, ESQ. (WITH A PORTRAIT.)

WE have this month the pleasure of annexing a review of the cotton trade in the manor of Ashton-under-Lyne, and county of Lancaster, for the year ending with the 2nd of November, 1857, by John Ross Coulthart, Esq., the mayor of that manor; and also of prefixing to the present number of this *Magazine* a portrait of that gentleman, who has, for the last twenty-one years, filled the responsible position of general manager of the Ashton, Stalybridge, Hyde, and Glossop Bank. We may add, that Mr. Coulthart is the representative of the ancient Scottish family of Coulthart of Coulthart and Collyn, and the descendant of a long line of respectable country gentlemen whose general probity and usefulness give the class a local influence and a social stability which are, perhaps, unsurpassed by any other rank or order of men in the kingdom. He is the only son and surviving child of the late William Coulthart, Esq., of Coulthart, in the county of Wigtown and of Collyn, in the county of Dumfries, by Helen, his wife, daughter of the late John Ross, Esq., of Dalton, in the county of Dumfries, a descendant of the Rosses of Hawkshead, in the county of Renfrew.* Mr. John Ross Coulthart was educated at the grammar school of Brittle, in the stewartry of Kirkcudbright, under the eye of the head master, the late Mr. Tait, who was distantly related to the Coulthards of Coulthart. On leaving school he was placed by his father in the law and banking offices of James Lidderdale, Esq., of Castle Douglas, who was then, and still is, an eminent writer or attorney, and the agent of the National Bank of Scotland's branch in that important market town. Whilst in Castle Douglas, Mr. Coulthart's fellow-clerks were Andrew McKean, Esq., the present manager of the Kilkenny branch of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, and Alexander Davidson, Esq., the present general manager of the Carlisle City and District Bank. In 1834 the Yorkshire District Banking Company was formed at Leeds by the late Matthew Edwards, Esq., and branch banks thereof established in various towns in the county of York, Mr. McKean, above mentioned, and Mr. Coulthart, being appointed the two principal officers of the one opened at Halifax. It was whilst at Halifax, in the discharge of his duties as accountant to the Yorkshire District Banking Company that Mr. Coulthart was selected, in 1836, to establish and manage the Ashton, Staleybridge, Hyde and Glossop Bank at Ashton-under-Lyne, since which period he has continued the manager and one of the registered public officers of that successful banking institution. Though in some respects Mr. Coulthart may be said to be engaged in

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* For further genealogical details, see Burke's "History of the Landed Gentry," and Twycross's "Mansions of England and Wales."

an arduous and exacting profession, yet he has not neglected to cultivate general literature, nor to employ his time in the acquisition of information which has been deemed useful by his fellow-townsmen and the public. In 1838 he published an octavo volume of Decimal Interest Tables, which have been found exceedingly valuable by bankers; and the *Times* newspaper of 21st February, 1845, seven years after publication, incidentally spoke of the work in very high terms in the City or monetary article. In 1843, when commissioners were appointed by Parliament to inquire into the sanitary condition of the large towns in England and Wales, Mr. Coulthart, though a banker, was deputed to report on Ashton-under-Lyne, which he did with such fulness of information, lucidness of arrangement, and accuracy of description, that the Marquis of Normanby, in the House of Lords (26th July, 1844), and the Earl of Carlisle, then Lord Morpeth, in the House of Commons (30th March, 1847), specially mentioned it as deserving of particular attention.* Besides these separate works, Mr. Coulthart is understood to be a frequent contributor to the periodical press, including the 8th Edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, now in course of publication. Mr. Coulthart is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, Scotland; an Associate of the British Archæological Association, London; Local Secretary to the Camden Society for Ashton-under-Lyne; a member of the Chetham Society, Manchester; and of the Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society, Liverpool. He is also Treasurer of the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne, of the Ashton-under-Lyne Savings Bank, and of the Ashton-under-Lyne Poor Law Union, and served the office of Mayor of the Manor of Ashton-under-Lyne between November, 1855, and November, 1857. The appointment to this office rests with the Right Honourable the Earl of Stamford and Warrington, the lord of the manor, and the jurisdiction of his lordship's manorial court extends over the whole parish of Ashton-under-Lyne, which comprises 9,494 statute acres, and included a population in 1851 of 56,951 inhabitants, of which number 30,676 were returned for the municipal borough of Ashton-under-Lyne, containing 1,373 statute acres. It was on the occasion of Mr. Coulthart retiring from the ancient and honourable office of Mayor of the Manor of Ashton-under-Lyne, on the 4th ultimo, and at a public dinner which Lord Stamford annually gives on such occasions, that the address, which forms the annexed review, was delivered, and which we readily transfer to our pages from the columns of the *Ashton Weekly Reporter*, as it contains much valuable statistical information, and may be taken a type, though a somewhat too favourable one, of the general state of trade in the great cotton manufacturing districts of Lancashire during the last twelve months. In extracting Mr. Coulthart's speech, we also print the remarks which accompanied the introduction of his name to the assembly :—

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* For reviews of these publications, see the *Bankers' Magazine*, vol. II., p. 239, and vol. III., p. 52.

The health of the retiring mayor of the manor, J. R. Coulthart, Esq., was next proposed by Mr. Roscoe, amid repeated rounds of applause. The speaker passed most flattering encomiums on the business talents and affability of Mr. Coulthart, who had devoted a very large portion of his time and attention to the requirements of the office of mayor of the manor during the last two years. During that time he (Mr. Coulthart) had presided over upwards of twenty public meetings in the borough and other parts of the manor, some of which had been of great public importance, and at all of which he had given every satisfaction. He had also rendered a great public service by his labours in connection with the unfortunate explosion at Heys Colliery, both as regarded his officiating as foreman of the jury, and in the drawing up of the able report thereon. (Loud cheers.) Drunk with three times three.

John Ross Coulthart, Esq., on rising to respond, thanked them cordially for the gracious reception which they had been pleased to give the last toast, and was only sorry that the services which he had rendered during his term of office had been so very unworthy of the honour which they had conferred upon him. He rejoiced to think, however, that there had been no diminution of the general prosperity of the manor during the last two years, nor any occurrence sufficiently powerful to dissipate entirely that progressive advancement of the cotton trade which had, in the short space of sixty or seventy years, raised Ashton-under-Lyne to the proud position which it now occupied in the manufacturing district of Lancashire. It was true that they had had their financial and manufacturing trials during the period alluded to, and more particularly so since they assembled in that room twelve months ago; but such recurring intervals of gloom were found by experience to have no permanent effect upon the general sunshine of their prosperity. Perhaps the most serious evil which they had had to contend with during the past year was the scarcity and consequent high price of raw cotton, which had had the effect of raising the manufactured article beyond the reach of a large number of the poorer class of purchasers, thereby limiting the demand both at home and abroad; whilst concurrently with that they had had dear money, and an unusually large amount of capital employed in their factories, which together had materially augmented even the ordinary cost of production. That the existing high price of raw cotton would shortly cause an extension of its growth and reduction in its price there could be no doubt; but in the meantime their trade suffered, and nothing seemed left for them to do except to confine the evil consequences within as narrow limits as possible, and promote as far as in them lay the objects of the Cotton Supply Association, which society seemed well calculated to avert or modify the evils of an insufficient quantity, and also to provide for such an extension of its growth in India as should keep pace with the extension of its consumption in this country. But, notwithstanding the evils which the high price of cotton had brought upon them during the past year, he was sure they all rejoiced to think that they had wholly escaped commercial failures—that all their factories and other works had been running full time—that their workpeople had been fully employed at the ordinary rate of remuneration, and that there was no external evidence visible throughout the manor of any diminution of their wonted prosperity. Indeed, a review of the number and magnitude of the new and extended cotton factories, warehouses, mansionhouses, and cottages that had sprung up around them during the last twelve months, might lead a cursory observer to suppose that it had been one of the most prosperous years on record; but those who possessed a practical knowledge of the trade, or who

had noticed the numerous stoppages elsewhere, were fully satisfied that there had been recently a great depreciation of the usual profits of cotton spinning and manufacturing, though the effects of that deterioration might not yet have reached the trading and operative classes. (Hear, hear.) As evidence that the erection of new property in the manor was progressing with a celerity at least equal to the average of byegone years, he reminded them of Mr. Harrop's new cotton factory at Bardsley, Mr. George Taylor's at Leesfield, Mr. Peter Seville's at Rhodeshill, Mr. James Adshead's at Souracre, Messrs. Thomas Nield and Sons' at Coe's Gardens, and Messrs. Thomas Mellor and Sons' at Sharp's Shrubberies. (Hear, hear.) Besides these entirely new factories, however, he said that the returns of the rate collectors showed that there had been erected within the manor during the last twelve months, fourteen new extensions of factories; seventeen new warehouses, workshops, and sheds; one new gas works, nine new shops, four new villa residences, and 116 new cottages. The only important difference in this year's list of new property, as compared with that of the year preceding, was that it contained fifty-five fewer cottages, and eight more workshops and warehouses. (Hear, hear.) The net increase in the population of the manor since they met there last year, as shown by the registers of births and deaths, was 772 persons, being 360 more than were shown by the same registers for the corresponding period of 1856. The marriages within the manor had also increased with unusual rapidity, the couples married this year being 690 against 644 the year previously. (Cheers and laughter.) He was also happy to state that the returns received from the manorial Savings Banks showed that the deposits made by the labouring classes had increased from £144,029, at which they stood at that time last year, to £152,791, at which they stood then, thereby showing an increase within the twelve months of £8,762. (Hear, hear.) The entire amount of rates of all kinds levied within the manor during the last twelve months was £15,673 against £14,763 levied the year previously, showing an increase this year of £910; but that circumstance, he said, needed not excite any uneasiness in the minds of the ratepayers, as even that augmented sum was only equal to 3*s.* 1*d.* in the pound on the assessed property within the borough, and 1*s.* 9*d.* in the pound on that situated in the other parts of the manor. (Hear, hear.) But even 3*s.* 1*d.* in the pound was very small when compared with the rates of other municipal boroughs like Ashton-under-Lyne, as returns in his possession satisfactorily established. At Stockport, the last year's rates amounted to 4*s.* 2*d.* in the pound; at Oldham, to 4*s.* 3*d.*; at Bury, to 3*s.* 7*d.*; at Bolton, to 4*s.*; at Salford, to 5*s.*; and at Manchester, to 5*s.* 4*d.* (Hear, hear.) He regretted that he had no means of comparing the rates payable in the manor outside the borough with those payable in other places situated like Ashton-under-Lyne, as he could not find that there was any other place in England circumstanced like that manor or parish. (Hear, hear.) But all the information which he had collected on the subject went to prove that, as regarded rates and some other things, there was no inducement for them to go elsewhere; whilst their manufacturing facilities and low assessments were cogent reasons why other people should come and reside with them. (Cheers.) Before concluding, he hoped they would permit him to mention another instance of the advancing prosperity of the manor during the last twelve months, and that, too, in the teeth of the trying manufacturing circumstances in which they had recently been placed; he alluded to the increased value of their assessed property. On the 2nd of November, 1856, the annual

value of the assessed property within the manor was £170,922; on the 2nd of November, this year, it stood at £176,114; showing a net increase in the rental of their freehold property within the year of £5,192. (Hear, hear.) They would thereby see that, whether they regarded the manor of Ashton-under-Lyne for the past year with reference to its commercial failures, its new buildings, its population returns, its savings' bank deposits, or the value of its assessed property, there was indisputable evidence of its increasing prosperity; and surely (he said) if advancement was observable in times like those, what might they not reasonably expect when America had come out of the fire of affliction, when India had been restored to tranquillity, when cotton had fallen in price from 9*d.* to under 6*d.* per pound, and when the bank rate of discount had been reduced from eight to under four per cent? (Applause.) That these desirable objects would sooner or later arrive there could be little doubt, and in the meantime it behoved them to act with the greatest judgment and discretion, subduing within their bosoms every rising desire to extend their operations, to store up cloth and yarn in expectation of getting better prices, or to enter into any transactions of even a speculative complexion. (Applause.) Having thus briefly reviewed the affairs of the manor for the past year, he thanked them again for the honour which they had conferred upon him, and also for the uniform assistance which they and others had extended to him during his mayoralty. Such friendly co-operation as that which he had experienced sweetened, in an eminent degree, the performance of the duties appertaining to the office; and he trusted that the good feeling which had been engendered between them during the last two years would not exhale with the passing hour, but continue to subsist between them as long as they lived and associated together. (Prolonged applause.)

Such may safely be received as a faithful description of the state of trade in the manufacturing district of Ashton-under-Lyne for the year ending November 4th, 1857, when the speech was delivered; but on the following day the Bank of England raised the minimum rate of discount from 8 to 9 per cent., which caused such a reduction in the demand for yarn and power-loom cloth, that many of the leading manufacturers resolved at once to limit the supply rather than stock any portion of their manufactures at a time when fair American cotton was selling at the unusually high price of 9¼*d.* per lb. This determination was only slightly acted upon before the 9th of November, when the Bank of England further raised the minimum rate of discount from 9 to 10 per cent., which, with the large bank and mercantile failures, that immediately ensued, had the effect of suspending, to a great extent, all fresh orders for cloth and yarn, and also of cancelling some which had previously been given. The suspension of the Bank Charter Act on the 12th of November, however, temporarily restored lost confidence, and for nearly a week fresh orders were given out pretty freely, in the belief that the severe monetary crisis had culminated, and that the manufacturing and commercial interests of this country would shortly resume the cycle of ordinary prosperity. In that expectation, however, the public was disappointed, as extensive failures daily occurred in different parts of Great Britain and Ireland, which

clearly demonstrated that the evils of over-trading were too deeply seated and widely ramified to be cured by the extra issue of a few hundred thousand pounds of Bank of England notes upon approved securities, at 10 per cent.

By the 23rd of November, about three-fourths of the spinning and manufacturing concerns in the parish and manor of Ashton-under-Lyne were running four days per week, and from that date to the 22nd December there was no general alteration in that proportion of working short time, though in that period several firms ran longer hours, to enable them to complete orders by the time required. It is worthy of remark that, notwithstanding the great depression in the state of trade in Ashton-under-Lyne and the surrounding towns of Stalybridge, Dukinfield, and Hyde, which contain a population of nearly 180,000 souls, there has not been a single failure during the present eventful crisis, which says much for the soundness of the cotton business in that district, and for the discretion of the mill-owners and occupiers engaged in it.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Board of Trade returns for October were issued on the 25th November, and still show an increase in the declared value of our exportations, as compared with the corresponding month of last year, although of a more moderate kind than in preceding returns. The total augmentation is £318,838, and it has principally arisen in the large class of miscellaneous goods placed under the head of unenumerated articles. Cotton and linen manufactures and silks are all on the adverse side. The falling off in the shipments to America and India has, of course, been very considerable; and, as regards the former, will be still more apparent in the returns for the present month. Probably for the next year or two the figures presented by these tables will be such as to allow of conclusions being drawn from them as to the real state of the trade of the country. During the past three or four years they have appeared to indicate extraordinary prosperity, and the inference has been that our transactions must have been profitable, or that they would not have been continued. No one was then aware that enormous shipments were being made month after month at a loss by speculative firms, supported by the advances of joint-stock banks. The annexed columns show the exact increase under each head of export during October:—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Months ending Oct. 31, 1856, and Oct. 31, 1857.	1856.	1857.	Increase.	Decrease.
Apparel and slops	£179,090	£210,702	£31,612	£ —
Beer and ale	84,598	98,642	14,044	—
Books	43,701	37,042	—	6,659
Butter	48,388	35,088	—	13,300
Candles	21,038	26,460	5,422	—
Cheese	23,394	13,922	—	9,472
Coals and culm	276,475	311,569	35,084	—
Cordage	16,285	13,493	—	2,792
Cottons	2,761,134	2,732,052	—	29,082
Cotton yarn	734,042	873,508	139,466	—
Earthenware	135,354	143,422	8,068	—
Fish	111,883	139,652	27,769	—
Furniture	30,441	27,951	—	2,490
Glass	62,955	55,402	6,553	—
Haberdashery	273,626	273,480	—	146
Hardwares	375,648	375,989	341	—
Leather	198,103	198,368	265	—
Linens	432,406	361,156	—	71,250
Linen yarn	131,776	146,582	14,896	—
Machinery	347,615	412,204	64,589	—
Iron and steel	1,205,776	1,190,651	—	15,125
Copper and brass	249,489	339,921	90,432	—
Lead	83,639	53,458	—	30,181
Tin	150,236	160,058	9,822	—
Oil seed	126,931	53,371	—	73,560
Painters' colours	58,107	45,742	—	12,365
Pickles and sauces	30,191	42,179	11,988	—
Plate and jewellery	49,729	60,298	10,569	—
Salt	44,301	26,509	—	17,792
Silks	223,704	172,648	—	51,056
Soap	25,292	22,477	—	2,815
Soda	63,933	78,900	14,967	—
Spirits	72,801	40,602	—	32,199
Stationery	73,519	78,734	5,215	—
Sugar, refined	91,117	35,788	—	55,329
Wool	57,725	80,972	23,247	—
Woollens	720,934	761,620	40,786	—
Woollen Yarn	285,049	288,208	3,159	—
Unenumerated articles	774,079	960,422	186,343	—
Total	10,666,951	10,985,789		

The total of our exports for the first ten months of the year has been £106,721,381, showing an increase of £11,147,825, or about 11½ per cent. The changes have occurred in the following manner:—

January, increase	£1,083,319
February —	1,587,293
March —	1,007,778
April —	560,918
May —	2,648,904
June, decrease	30,247
July, increase	2,233,306
August —	885,513
September —	852,203
October —	818,833

Compared with the corresponding ten months of 1855, the increase is £28,633,944, or about 37 per cent.

With regard to imported commodities, the pressure of the period has been indicated by a falling off in the consumption of almost all articles of food and luxury. Tea shows a slight increase, but in coffee, cocoa, sugar, spirits, wine, fruits, spices, and tobacco there has been a considerable decrease.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption :—

Months ending Oct. 31, 1856, and Oct. 31, 1857.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1856.	1857.	1856.	1857.
Grain, wheat, qrs.	434,692	389,977	434,692	389,977
Grain of other descriptions, qrs.	263,656	328,290	263,656	328,290
Indian corn, qrs....	152,066	156,989	152,066	156,989
Flour and meal, cwt.	161,504	122,496	161,504	122,496
Provisions—Bacon, &c. &c., cwt.	21,361	24,415	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt.	93,888	69,838	92,539	68,961
Animals, No.	34,902	39,917	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	7,504,600	7,226,400	7,504,600	7,226.400
Cocoa, lb.	373,756	290,519	411,808	232,900
Coffee, lb.	7,257,224	6,030,352	3,237,695	2,844,453
Sugar, cwt.	581,712	899,264	781,237	663,062
Tea, lb....	10,036,170	4,291,948	5,644,721	5,941,112
Rice, cwt.	339,820	423,126	148,083	130,974
Spirits, gallons	1,096,232	868,259	457,639	429,592
Wines, gallons	1,064,521	1,097,734	741,846	617,654
Tobacco, lb.	4,221,718	3,103,515	2,947,512	2,909,203
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt...	112,302	107,675	93,742	57,255
Lemons and oranges, bushels ..	11,113	9,905	14,798	9,044
Spices, lb.	1,374,053	524,366	463,572	411,442
Ditto, cwt.	4,927	904	1,931	1,856

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material :—

Months ending Oct. 31, 1856, and Oct. 31, 1857.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1856.	1857.	1856.	1857.
Flax, cwt.	352,516	167,311	—	—
Hemp, cwt	224,219	261,385	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	1,509,218	1,369,393	35,524	86,353
Cotton, cwt....	396,389	421,430	140.814	49,788
Wool, lb.	9,119,716	8,658,042	990,588	1,614,119
Tallow, cwt.	205,943	184,071	25,667	11,210

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Months ending Oct. 31, 1856, and Oct. 31, 1857.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1856.	1857.	1856.	1857.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	75,905	50,399	74,690	48,070
Ditto of India, pieces	22,909	32,232	8,218	2,999

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to Thursday, December 10 :—

DEBTOR.	F.	C.
Capital of the Bank	91,250,000	0
Ditto, New	91,250,000	0
Reserve of the Bank	12,980,750	14
Ditto in landed property...	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	488,343,900	0
Ditto of the branch banks	43,960,000	0
Bank notes to order	5,042,337	15
Receipts payable at sight	2,436,541	0
Treasury account-current, creditor	73,741,685	82
Sundry accounts-current...	123,384,359	24
Do. with the branch banks	23,339,794	0
Dividends payable	299,472	25
Discounts and sundry interests	1,531,598	49
Commission on deposits ...	18,069,206	33
Re-discounted during the last six months	2,268,387	81
Protested bills	10,435,088	17
Sundries	2,820,013	56
F.	995,153,133	96

CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand	82,597,109	42
Cash in the branch banks	153,424,483	0
Commercial bills overdue	768.852	60
Do. discounted, but not due	269,908,201	62
Ditto in the branch banks	241,567,095	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	2,620,600	0
Do. by the branch banks	2,210,900	0
Do. on French public securities	18,932,036	10
Do. by the branch banks	5,865,750	0
Do. on railway securities	21,117,200	0
Do. by the branch banks	10,321,800	0
Do. on Crédit Foncier scrip	166,400	0
Do. on branch banks scrip	34,100	0
Do. to the State on agreement of June, 1848.....	50,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	12,980,750	14
Ditto disposable	52,189,482	3
New shares, not settled ..	70,293,300	0
Hotel & furniture of the Bk.	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	5,128,211	0
Expenses of the Bank ...	2,056,988	23
Premium on the purchases of gold and silver	1,576,029	3
Sundries	1,260,239	79
F.	995,153,133	96

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, DE GERMINY.

These figures furnish a remarkable illustration of the effect produced in France by the advance of the rate of discount to 10 per cent. at the beginning of November, and justify the reductions to the extent of 2 per cent. subsequently made. The bullion, which in the previous account showed a falling off of £1,440,000, has experienced an increase of £1,860,000, and now stands at £9,440.000, although the premium paid for artificial purchases, which last month amounted to £15,000, has not been more than £10,000. Even allowing, therefore, for the effect of the police restrictions to prevent any efflux, which were said at the height of the crisis to have been redoubled, it is evident that a strong turn of the tide must have taken place naturally. While the bullion has been rapidly increasing the note circulation has been drawn in in a greater ratio, a diminution having occurred of £1,960,000. A withdrawal of £3,120,000 of deposits has been coincident with a contraction of £3,080,000 in the discounts. The balance to the credit of the Treasury has increased £55,000, and the advances on stocks and shares have been reduced by about £240,000.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. BARDGETT AND PICARD.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Bardgett and Picard, who failed on the 16th November, in the corn trade, was held on the 9th December, when the following statement of affairs was presented by Mr. Turquand, of the firm of Turquand, Youngs, and Co., the accountants:—

STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS, Nov. 14, 1857.

Dr.

To creditors unsecured		£33,596	0 8
Creditors partially secured £38,890 12 9			
Estimated value of securities 33,687 14 8			
		5,202	18 1
Creditors fully secured 17,556 0 3			
Estimated value of securities 18,981 10 8			
	£1,425 10 5		
Liabilities on bills of exchange 112,652 16 0			
Considered good £65,023 3 8			
„ bad 47,629 12 4	47,629 12 4		
Deduct cash per contra in the hands of bill-holders	1,285 14 5		
		46,343	17 11
		£85,142	16 8

Cr.

By cash in hands of bankers and bill holders	£1,285 14 5		
Deducted from liabilities per contra—			
Debtors—good	3,623 3 2		
Ditto, doubtful and bad ... £7,481 12 6			
Estimated to realise	935 3 3		
		£4,558	6 5
Debtors in America £38,646 0 1			
Estimated to realise		10,000	0 0
Property		1,924	6 0
		£16,482	12 5
Deduct claims payable in full		376	0 0
		£16,106	12 5
Doubtful assets—			
Property	£6,824 0 0		
Surplus securities per contra	1,425 10 5		
	£8,249 10 5		

It was stated that the assets show about 5*s.* in the pound, but that there is not the prospect of the whole amount being realised, in consequence of the large proportion of debts due from America. The operations of the firm have been on an extensive scale, and the difficulties are attributed to losses, bad debts, and the depreciation in the value of grain. In 1856 the accounts exhibited a surplus of £24,314, but an accurate estimate of the debts had not then been made. The house not being in a position to make

any distinct offer, the partners are prepared to adopt any course which may be suggested for the arrangement of their affairs. After some discussion an adjournment of a week was agreed to, three creditors being meanwhile appointed to look into the books, with the view of recommending the measures that should be resorted to. At an adjourned meeting it was determined to appoint a committee to consider the propriety of accepting 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. BROCKLESBY AND WESSELS.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Brocklesby and Wessels, who failed on the 18th November, in the grain trade, was held on the 3rd December, when the subjoined statement of their affairs was presented by Mr. G. H. Jay, the accountant :—

BROCKLESBY AND WESSELS' STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS, Nov. 18, 1857.

Dr.			
To sundry creditors, unsecured	£31,793 4 2		
Rent, taxes, &c.	392 18 6		
		£32,186	2 8
To sundry creditors fully secured —			
Amount of claims	18,354 13 11		
Amount of security	27,357 16 6		
Balance—surplus to contra	9,003 2 7		
Sundry creditors, partially secured—			
Amount of claims	50,570 4 11		
Security held	42,269 11 4		
		8,300	13 7
Liabilities on acceptances for sundry cargoes, of which we are relieved by the consignees suspending the delivery	2,804 17 7		
Liabilities on bills receivable per list—			
Considered good	24,401 8 5		
Liabilities on guarantee of Levy and Arndt's drafts, not expected to become claims	4,319 0 5		
		£40,486	16 3
Cr.			
By cash at bankers'	£1,695 11 11		
Retained by them against bills per contra—			
In the house	19 13 11		
At the National Bank	92 18 2		
		£112	12 1
By bills receivable in hand, as per statement, considered good		5,609	15 0
Sundry debtors, as per statement—			
Considered good	£6,795 18 0		
Doubtful ... £190 0 0 say	170 0 0		
Bad 2,538 3 4			
		6,965	18 0
Carried forward		£12,688	5 1

	Brought forward ...	£12,688	5 1
By Stock in hand		1,200	0 0
Surplus security held by creditors, as per contra ...		9,003	2 7
Counting-house furniture...		40	0 0
Debts due to consignors, not collected		956	8 3
		£22,931	7 8

It was explained that the estate showed a dividend of about 11*s.* 3*d.* in the pound, the assets consisting of grain taken at a fair valuation, and which can be steadily realised. The whole of the transactions of the firm have, it is stated, been characterised by regularity, and the bankers being satisfied with the conduct of Messrs. Brocklesby and Wessels, have agreed to abide by the general decision of the creditors. Mr. M'Leod, the professional representative of the firm, intimated that if a liquidation under inspectorship were adopted a first dividend of 5*s.* could be speedily declared, and a second of 2*s.* 6*d.* within two months, leaving the further distribution in the hands of the gentlemen appointed to act under the arrangement. General testimony having been borne to the satisfactory mode of transacting business by the house, a resolution was passed authorising a liquidation by inspection.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. J. AND A. DENNISTOUN AND CO.

A MEETING of creditors of Messrs. J. and A. Dennistoun and Co., of Glasgow, with branch houses at London, Liverpool, New York, and New Orleans, whose suspension was announced on the 7th, was held on the 26th November, when the following statement of affairs was submitted by Mr. Coleman the accountant:—

BALANCE STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS TO NOVEMBER 7, 1857.

Dr.			
To creditors on open accounts		£91,947	10 8
Ditto, holding security		217,276	1 9
Ditto, on bills payable (this amount includes our acceptances (£296,687 17*s.* 5*d.*) given for the account of Dennistoun Brothers and Co., of Australia) ...		1,833,478	3 1
Liabilities	£2,142,701	15	6
Amount of capital standing to the credit of the several partners	£560,897 2 9		
Ditto, Liverpool Borough Bank, shares cost	208,873 2 11		
	769,770	5	8
Balance of profit and loss account, &c.	23,520	7	5
	£2,935,992	8	7
Cr.			
By cash in hand		£9,038	10 0
Counting-house furniture, &c.		2,500	0 0
Produce on hand		26,360	0 0
Carried forward ...		£37,898	10 0

	Brought forward ...	£37,898 10	0
By Bills receivable on hand		111,786 9	3
Debtors in Great Britain, &c.	£213,010 7 11		
Ditto and property in America	1,584,215 14 9		
		1,797,229 2	8
Securities with creditors		187,080 12	10
Amount to debit of Dennistoun Brothers and Co., Australia		354,345 13	6
Inclusive of acceptances amounting to £296,687 17*s.* 5*d.*		2,488,340 9	0
Further separate estates of the partners available		190,379 16	8
Debts due to separate partners in America		48,399 0	0
Liverpool Borough Bank shares, contra		208,873 2	11
		£2,935,992 8	7

CLAIMS AND ASSETS AFTER DEDUCTING CONTRA ENTRIES.

Dr.

To creditors on open accounts		£91,947 10	8
Ditto on bills payable ...	£1,833,478 3 1		
Less balances to the debit of parties for whose account the bills are accepted, the principal part of which are considered good	1,214,414 5 3		
		619,063 17	10
Creditors partially secured ...	177,142 14 11		
Security held	142,531 15 0		
		34,610 19	11
Creditors fully secured—			
Security held	44,548 17 10		
Claims	40,133 6 10		
	4,415 11 0		
Liabilities on bills discounted, £514,769 10*s.* 4*d.*, of which it is estimated there may rank on this estate		50,000 0	0
		£795,622 8	5
Liabilities in respect of letters of credit.			
Ditto of partners on Liverpool Borough Bank shares or any other company.			

Cr.

By cash in hand &c. (subject to the due payment of bills discounted by Commercial Bank of Scotland) ...	£9,038 10	9
Counting-houses, furniture, &c.	2,500 0	0
Produce on hand	26,360 0	0
Bills receivable on hand	111,786 9	3
Debtors and property	582,814 17	5
Surplus from securities contra...	4,415 11	0
Amount to debit of Dennistoun Brothers and Co., Australia (inclusive of acceptances amounting to £296,687 17*s.* 5*d.*)	354,345 13	6
Carried forward ...	£1,091,261 1	11

Brought forward ...	£1,091,261	1	11
By Further separate estates of the partners available ...	190,379	16	8
Debts due to the separate partners in America ...	48,399	0	0
	£1,330,039	18	7
Liverpool Borough Bank shares held by the several partners	£208,873	12	11

Mr. Coleman explained that in the above account only one item is estimated arbitrarily—viz., the profit and loss; and that the value set on the produce is calculated from the price between the 7th and 14th of November. The debts and property in America may be thus classified:—£695,000 is represented mostly by goods and bills receivable of customers; £325,200 consists of other bills receivable; £140,000 guaranteed securities; £151,000 open accounts, and the remainder is composed of railway bonds, mortgages, and various securities of that character, but of the best description. The house of Dennistoun and Co., of Australia, being a distinct firm, the creditors in connexion with that business will be in a somewhat better position than the ordinary creditors, as the returns from Australia will accrue more quickly than the proceeds to be expected from the realisation of the American assets. Messrs. Dennistoun, as large shareholders in the Liverpool Borough Bank, are necessarily subject to a heavy liability on account of the failure of that institution; but it is believed, not only that the £5 call already made will be sufficient to clear off all claims, but that there is every probability this sum will be returned. All the transactions of the firm have been on a sound and legitimate basis, and no discreditable act can in any way be imputed to them. Mr. Murray, their London solicitor, then made the following proposition on the part of Messrs. Dennistoun, namely, that the creditors of the houses in Great Britain and the United States be paid in six instalments, namely, 3*s.* in the pound on or before the 30th of January, 1858; 2*s.* on the 31st of July; 3*s.* on the 31st of December; 4*s.* on the 30th of June, 1859; 4*s.* on the 31st of December; and 4*s.* on the 30th of June, 1860; with 5 per cent. interest on each instalment; and that the creditors through the Australian house should receive 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound on the 30th of January, 1858; 3*s.* 4*d.* on the 30th of June; 5*s.* on the 31st of January, 1859; and 5*s.* on the 31st of July, also with interest at the rate of 5 per cent. In answer to a question Mr. Murray stated that when the first payment is made, promissory notes for the remaining instalments will be given and the present acceptances cancelled. He hoped the proposal would be accepted, as such a course would prove of the greatest assistance, both morally and legally, in the realisation of the assets and the enforcement of the claims in America. It was further stated that the accounts from the United States were encouraging, and that a possibility exists of the instalments being paid before the dates fixed, although, on considering the whole circumstances of the case, Messrs. Dennistoun could not feel certain of being able to carry out better terms. After a short discussion a resolution accepting the proposition was passed unanimously.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. BENNOCH, TWENTYMAN AND RIGG.

A NUMEROUS meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Bennoch, Twentyman and Rigg, extensively engaged as manufacturers in London and Manchester, was held on the 27th November, Mr. Foster presiding, when the subjoined statement prepared by Mr. Parrinton, of the firm of Messrs. Parrinton, Ladbury and Co., was submitted. Mr. Reed represented the firm; Mr. J. Linklater, Mr. Bower, Mr. Crowther and Mr. Abrahams, various creditors.

Dr.

To creditors as per list	£167,552 5 10		
Less securities held by them ...	6,722 5 3		
		£160,830	0 7
(In the above claims, £50,950 11*s.* 9*d.* is included, depreciation in the value of silk in the hands of the brokers.)			
Bills accepted by consignors... ...	£99,663 18 9		
Less bills fully or partly secured by goods on hand	62,680 13 6		
		36,983	5 3
Liabilities on bills receivable, discounted, considered good	127,511 14 10		
Ditto, ditto, considered bad	23,547 6 11		
Less security held on account thereof	550 0 0		
		22,997	6 11
Liabilities on guarantees, in respect of which it is considered there will be a claim of		3,000	0 0
Creditors of Messrs. Lovatt and Gould, whose debts Messrs. Bennoch, Twentyman and Rigg have undertaken to pay		33,884	3 2
		£257,694	15 11

Cr.

By stock in trade in London and Manchester, cost	£65,768 5 8		
Estimated at		£39,195	18 4
Book debts, good	...41,347 5 2		
Less debts on consignors' account	...10,191 0 1		
		31,156	5 1
Book debts, doubtful and bad ...	...16,267 18 1		
Estimated at		5,057	15 4
Bills receivable on hand... ...	... 7,248 7 0		
Less portion due to consignors ...	... 435 13 9		
		6,812	13 3
Cash in hand and at banker's ...	... ...	874	13 4
Cash at banker's	... 2,028 16 4		
Deducted from their claim of	... 5,000 0 0		
Fixtures at Manchester ...	... ...	154	0 0
Furniture, &c., at Wood-street	... ...	300	0 0
Shipments to Melbourne, Sydney, New York, &c., amounting to	41,021 5 11		
Carried forward ...	£48,050 2 3	£83,551	5 4

Brought forward ...	£18,050	2	3	£83,551	5	4
Subject to advances and claims thereon	20,163	10	1			
	£20,857	15	10			
Estimated at				12,794	8	3
Value of shares				100	0	0
Securities deposited with creditors and deducted per contra	£6,722	5	3			
Leases and fixtures of premises, 77 and 78, Wood-street, and land in Silver-street				1,400	0	0
Stock, book debts, utensils in trade, furniture, &c., of Messrs. Lovatt and Gould, of Leek				4,382	11	7
By equity of redemption in freehold land and mill of Messrs. Lovatt and Gould, subject to mortgage of £10,000.						
				£102,228	5	2
Less rent, salaries, &c.				781	11	8
				£101,446	13	6
Deficiency				£156,248	2	5

It was explained that the accounts showed a deficiency of £156,248, the difference between £257,694 debts and liabilities, and £101,446 assets. The dividend, therefore, taking the balance-sheet as it stands, would be from 7*s.* 10*d.* to 7*s.* 11*d.* in the pound; but as a portion of the assets consist of silk, they are still liable to some fluctuation. The firm in 1848 commenced with a capital of £9,410, which subsequently increased until it was taken in December, 1856, at £38,247. This, together with the profits in trade, by silk, commissions, and the amount of deficiency, constituted a total of which the firm had to discharge themselves. It could, however, be readily done; for although some of the items presented unfavourable results, they accounted for the several amounts. The loss on the depreciation of silk, now held by themselves and the brokers was £50,900; the depreciation of other stock, £26,573; loss by the firm of Messrs. Lovatt and Gould, of Leek, £41,728; loss by Messrs. T. S. Reed and Co., of Derby, £16,692; loss by Mr. John Taylor, of Coventry, £17,426; and these, with other amounts, including the drawings of the firm, £5,838; loss on bills receivable, £23,547; on shipments, £7,100; trade expenses, £8,213; and bad debts, £14,510, represented the aggregate. The assumption of the debts of Messrs. Lovatt and Gould, amounting to £33,800, arose from a joint connection, by which Messrs. Bennoch and Co. became liable with them in silk purchases from Messrs. Durant, and eventually they took the property of Lovatt and Gould and arranged to discharge their engagements. In the case of Messrs. Reed and Co., of Derby, the loss accrued through depreciation, the same being the result with the firm of Messrs. Taylor and Co., of Coventry. Being consignees to Messrs. Bennoch and Co., they had overdrawn to an amount in excess of the value of the goods as now estimated, Mr. Bennoch and Mr. Twentyman being at the same time partners

in the firm of Messrs. Reed and Co., Mr. Reed, as the professional adviser of the firm, showed that the chief injury to the estate had ensued through depreciation, the further sacrifice, ever since the suspension, having been at least 10 per cent. In a period of depression like the present, it was impossible to predict what might be the result; but it was hoped that a favourable reaction might ensue and increase the value of the assets. While explaining the minutiæ of the business with Messrs. Lovatt, Gould, and Co., Messrs. Reed and Co., and Mr. J. Taylor, he showed that they originated under proper influences, and that no bill transactions of a doubtful or irregular character had occurred. The proposal to be placed before the creditors did not include any specific offer, because, looking at the nature of their estate, Messrs. Bennoch and Co. felt that it would be impossible for them to make an arrangement which would be satisfactory. They had therefore determined to yield to any course of action that might be suggested with the view of liquidating their estate in the best possible manner. It was not presumed that bankruptcy would be proposed, but it was believed that, through the process of inspection affairs might be wound up without detriment to existing interests. The separate estates of Mr. Bennoch and Mr. Twentyman each presented a small surplus, which, if required, could be made available for the benefit of the joint estate, but that of Mr. Rigg exhibited a deficiency. After a lengthened conversation, in which it was elicited that the operations of the firm in silk had been based on *bonâ fide* purchases, they having acted in the character of silk dealers as well as manufacturers, it was agreed that a liquidation under inspection should be effected. In the course of the proceedings Mr. Reed intimated that it would in all probability be found advisable to give the inspectors power, after a dividend to the amount of 6*s*. had been declared, to deal either with the members of the firm or with other parties for a final arrangement, and this view being agreed to the suggestion was incorporated in the following resolution, which was immediately adopted:—

"At a meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Bennoch, Twentyman, and Rigg, of Wood-street London, and of Manchester, merchants, holden at Guildhall Coffee-house, King-street, Cheapside, on Friday, the 27th of November, 1857, Mr. Foster in the chair, Mr. Parrinton, accountant, read a statement of Messrs. Bennoch and Co.'s affairs, and gave various explanations with reference to their estate. Mr. Reed (solicitor) stated that in consequence of the serious reduction in the present value of the assets, Messrs. Bennoch, Twentyman, and Rigg were unable to propose any offer of composition which would be safe for themselves, and at the same time satisfactory to their creditors, and from the magnitude of the liabilities it was doubtful whether they could find an adequate guarantee, even if the creditors assented to a composition; that, with the hope of securing to their creditors the present value of their assets, at all events, and a greater dividend than is at present shown, should a better state of things ensue, Messrs. Bennoch and Co. propose to realise their estate under inspection, in the usual way, but that the creditors shall give power to the inspectors, when the estate shall have been brought within smaller compass by realisation, and the payment of a certain amount of dividend (say 6*s*. in the pound), to dispose of the remainder of the estate to Messrs. Bennoch, Twentyman, and Rigg, or one or more of them, or to any other person, at such price and on such terms as the inspectors may think proper. Mr. Reed also stated that Messrs. Bennoch and Co. placed themselves unreservedly in the hands of their creditors, and would adopt any course that the latter might consider most conducive to their interests.

"Resolved,—That Messrs. Bennoch, Twentyman, and Rigg's estate be realised under inspection, in accordance with their proposal; that Messrs. ——— be inspectors, and that it be left to those gentlemen to decide (on behalf of the creditors) upon the terms of the deed of inspection, including those upon which Messrs. Bennoch, Twentyman, and Rigg are to obtain their release. The assent of creditors to this resolution is to be without prejudice to their claims against other parties, or to any securities they hold, and to be subject to the consent of third parties (when necessary being obtained."

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. BROADWOOD AND BARCLAY.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Broadwood and Barclay, engaged in the West India trade, who failed on the 9th November, was held on the 10th December, when the following statement was presented by Mr. J. Weise, of the firm of Messrs. J. E. Coleman and Co., the accountants:—

Statement of the Affairs, Nov. 9.

Dr.

To creditors on open accounts		£959	0 0
Ditto on bills payable	£259,547 15 5		
Of which it is expected there will be provided for by the parties for whose account the bills were accepted ...	133,410 8 5		
Leaving to rank on this estate		126,137	0 0
Creditors after they have retired their drafts		10,865	0 0
Creditors on underwriting accounts		1,829	0 0
Ditto, fully secured	£11,300 0 0		
Ditto, security held	14,300 0 0		
Surplus contra	3,000 0 0		
Creditors, partially secured	66,500 0 0		
Ditto, security held	44,500 0 0		
Deficiency		22,000	0 0
Liabilities on bills receivable	117,917 4 3		
Of which it is anticipated there will rank on this estate		50,230	0 0
		£212,020	0 0

LIABILITY ON SHIPS CHARTERED.

Cr.

By cash on hand	£89	0 0
Bills receivable on hand (good)	660	0 0
Assets	2,360	0 0
Debtors (good)	23,982	0 0
Ditto doubtful (estimated)	1,000	0 0
Surplus from creditors fully secured (contra)	3,000	0 0
	£31,091	0 0
Less sundry small debts, salaries, &c., to be paid in full ...	400	0 0
Carried forward	£30,691	0 0

	Brought forward	£30 691	0 0
By Mayaguez refinery, stands at debit £81,097 12*s.* 3*d.* ...		25,000	0 0
Decastro, Lindegren, and Co., stands at debit £61,550 11*s.* 4*d.*		10,000	0 0
		£65,691	0 0

It was explained that the accounts showed a dividend of more than 5*s.* in the pound, the assets being taken at the lowest valuation. The large amount of bills accepted, and the capital sunk in the sugar refinery at Porto Rico, represent the principal causes of the suspension, which, together with the fall in produce, exhibit the total deficiency. It appears that Messrs. Decastro, Lindegren, and Co., of Porto Rico, have authorised the payment of a composition of 10*s.* in the pound, by three instalments, to the holders of their drafts; and it was mentioned that the necessary precautions have been adopted to secure the sugar refinery for the benefit of the creditors. As this item represents so large an asset, it is proposed to continue the operations for some period in order to effect a sale of the stock, and also, if possible, of the property. The capital absorbed since 1849 has been £70,000. A lengthened discussion took place respecting the general condition of the estate; and eventually resolutions were passed, authorising a liquidation by inspection, Mr. Kirkman Hodgson and Mr. A. Klockmann being appointed to act for the creditors.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. HENRY AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Henry and Co. was held on the 10th December, when a statement of accounts was presented by Messrs. Turquand, Young and Co., showing liabilities £13,533, and assets £6,745. A composition of 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound was proposed, but the creditors at the meeting this afternoon thought that if the affairs were left entirely in the hands of Messrs. Henry and Co. a dividend of 10*s.* in the pound could be arranged at three, six, nine and twelve months. The creditors expressed great confidence in the firm, and resolved to accept the 10*s.*, if, after due consideration, Messrs. Henry and Co. believed they could make the offer.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. J. H. BAIRD AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. J. H. Baird and Co. in the Australian trade was held on the 10th December, when the following statement of affairs was presented by Mr. C. F. Kemp the accountant:—

LIABILITIES.

Dr.			
To creditors on open accounts	£1,813 14 4		
Ditto on bills payable	13,661 9 3		
Unsecured		£15,475	3 7
Ditto on bills payable in respect of consignments secured	... ...	3,729	6 9
Liabilities on bills receivable... ...	7,609 0 6		
Of which it is expected will be paid in full	5,048 9 10		
Carried forward ...	£2,560 10 8	£19,204	10 4

Brought forward ...	£2,560 10 8		
Estimated dividend	1,606 13 1		
Leaving	953 17 7		
Estimated further loss on bills held as collateral, security and bills overdue ...	1,100 0 0		
		£2,053 17 7	
		£21,258 7 11	

ASSETS,

Cr.

By cash in hand	... ...	£45 0 0	
Debtors, good	... ...	34 0 0	
„ Doubtful	£404 3 3		
Estimated		269 8 10	
Bills receivable, held as collateral security by the City Bank	3,960 12 8		
Less overdrawn account ...	140 0 0		
		3,820 12 8	
Cash advances on consignments	1,082 18 6		
Advances by bills per contra	3,729 6 9		
		4,812 5 3	
Bills of lading held by City Bank ...	2,670 10 6		
Brandy certificates	300 0 0		
		2,970 10 6	
Commission on consignments secured ...	7,395 12 1	300 0 0	
Shipments to Wharton, C. and L., and Co., on Joint account	37,579 0 0		
Less drafts, two-thirds	25,052 13 0		
Remittances on account	3,500 0 0		
Insurance and freight	159 17 3		
Cash paid to Mr. Baird	36 5 11		
	£28,748 16 6		
Balance due to J. H. Baird, or respective of profit on the above		8,831 3 6	
		£21,083 0 9	

The immediate cause of the suspension was stated to be the discontinuance of remittances from Messrs. Wharton and Co., of Melbourne, with whom Messrs. Baird had been connected in business. It was finally resolved that Mr. Baird should proceed to Australia to make the best arrangements in his power, and Mr. Kemp was instructed to act in his absence.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. SANDERSON, SANDEMAN, AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Sanderson, Sandeman, and Co., the bill brokers, who suspended on the 11th November, took place on the 10th December, Mr. W. G. Prescott presiding, when the following statement of accounts was presented:

MESSRS. SANDERSON, SANDEMAN, AND CO.'S STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS, NOV. 11, 1857.

Dr.

To creditors unsecured				£378,827	14 10
Creditors partially secured	£237,864	5	4		
Less—					
Bills of exchange held as security ...	230,205	9	5		
				7,658	15 11
This balance will be increased by amount of such bills as may ultimately prove bad.					
Creditors secured	£2,810,008	5	3		
Bills of Exchange held as security ... £2,959,468 9 6					
Government Stock ... 45,497 10 0					
	3,004,965	19	6		
Surplus per contra	£194,957	14	3		
Liabilities on bills re-discounted	£2,015,585	2	11		
Of this amount it is impossible at present to form an estimate of what may prove bad and come against this estate.					
				£386,486	10 9

Interest to date of this statement has not been calculated on debit and credit balances.

Cr.

By cash and bank shares				£1,725	10 9
Bills of exchange on hand—viz.,					
On houses considered good	£40,891	0	0		
On houses which have suspended payment	52,847	13	10		
				93,738	13 10
It cannot at present be estimated what this item may ultimately produce.					
Loans and debts for which securities are held	79,701	14	11		
Estimated to realise				73,500	0 0
Sundry debtors—viz.,					
Good	1,544	19	9		
Debit balances, £206,315 7*s.* 6*d.*, estimated to realise	86,980	18	5		
				88,525	18 2
Partners' private estates, about				40,000	0 0
				£297,490	2 9
Surplus securities, as per contra				194,957	14 0
This item will be reduced by amount of such bills as may ultimately prove bad.					
				£492,447	17 0

It appeared from the statement made by Mr. Turquand, the accountant, that of the £5,298,090, the total liabilities for which the firm were responsible at the date of the failure, about £2,013,600 have run off. The

bills returned in this sum represent about £91,000, of which £49,000 it is estimated will ultimately be paid. Valuing the remainder at about 10*s.* in the pound, the loss in this respect will not exceed £20,000. It is estimated that there will be a further sacrifice of about £30,000 on the £3,000,000 of paper which has yet to arrive at maturity, notwithstanding it is considered to be of a higher character. The firm have discounted £132,000 for the Liverpool Borough Bank, but an amount of about £60,000 has run off, and the remainder is asserted to be secured by promissory notes. The assets are now in course of collection, about £19,000 having already been paid into the Bank of England, the proceeds being invested from time to time in Exchequer Bills. The capital originally was about £34,000, but at the date of the failure it had augmented through the accumulation of profits to £83,820. A proposal for winding up the estate under inspection was unanimously agreed to, and although no doubt was expressed with regard to the payment of 20*s.* in the pound, nothing transpired to indicate whether a reorganisation of business will be attempted. The liquidation may, it is thought, last a year; but all expedition, with due regard to the interests of the creditors, will be used to bring affairs to a close as soon as possible. The principal discussion was with regard to the release to be given to the surviving partner, the power being left in the hands of the inspectors. The resolutions in favour of the liquidation were carried unanimously, Mr. W. G. Prescott, Mr. L. Lloyd, jun., and Mr. Robertson, being selected to superintend the administration of the estate.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. HOARE, BUXTON, AND CO.

A NUMEROUS meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Hoare, Buxton, and Co., lately engaged in the Swedish trade, whose suspension was announced on the 17th November, took place on the 14th December, Mr. Hawkins presiding, when the following statement, prepared by Mr. J. E. Coleman, the accountant, was presented:—

Dr.

To creditors on open accounts			£16,986 1 5
Bills payable			337,121 12 2
Creditors holding security:—			
Security held	£122,545 3 9		
Claims	105,739 18 7		
Surplus to contra	16,805 5 2		
			£354,107 13 7
Liabilities on bills receivable ...	£341,495 8 6		
Of which there will not be met at maturity	112,493 7 2		112,493 7 2
Leaving the amount expected to be duly honoured at maturity ...	£229,002 1 4		
			£466,601 0 9
Capital	£38,192 12 8		
Profit and loss January 1, to November 16, 1857	15,939 4 8		54,131 17 4
			£520,732 18 1

Cr.

By cash in hand and at banker's ...		£7,118	6	8			
Less amount retained by bankers against loans on security ...		5,727	18	1			
					£1,390	8	7
Bills receivable on hand		...		...	12,604	19	1
Debtors		...		...	345,794	14	0
Merchandise		...		...	24,578	0	0
Office furniture and sundry assets ...		...		...	802	1	3
					£385,170	2	11
Surplus from creditors holding security	...			...	16,805	5	2
					£401,975	8	1
Partners' drawings		...		...	6,264	2	10
Liabilities on bills receivable per contra	...			...	112,493	7	2
					£520,732	18	1

ESTIMATED LIABILITIES AND ASSETS.

Dr.

To creditors on open accounts				...	£16,986	0	0
Bills payable	£337,121	0	0				
Of which it is expected there will be provided for by the parties for whose account the bills were accepted	172,138	0	0				
Leaving to rank on this estate ..					164,983	0	0
Creditors holding security :—							
Security held	122,545	0	0				
Claims	105,740	0	0				
Surplus ...	£16,805	0	0				
Liabilities on bills receivable ...	£311,495	0	0				
Of which it is known there will not be met at maturity	112,493	0	0				
Amount expected to rank on this estate in respect of the last amount ...	75,000	0	0				
					75,000	0	0
Leaving	£37,493	0	0				
					£256,969	0	0

Which will be taken up by the drawers, &c.

Cr.

By cash balance				...	£1,390	0	0
Bills receivable on hand	£12,605	0	0				
Of which there are considered good	6,977	0	0				
					6,977	0	0
Leaving	£5,628	0	0				
By debtors considered good				...	10,327	0	0
By debtors considered doubtful ...	144,071	0	0				
	£149,699	0	0				
Carried forward ...				...	£18,694	0	0

Brought forward	£18,694	0	0
Estimated at 7*s*, 6*d*. in the pound	56,137	0	0
By amount for which parties will be debtors after retiring the bills accepted for their account ...	19,258	0	0
Merchandise	24,578	0	0
Office furniture and sundry assets	802	0	0
	£119,469	0	0

These accounts exhibit a dividend of about 9*s*. in the pound, but the assets are still liable to some fluctuation. The liabilities on the underwriting account are taken at £5,000, and the separate estates of the partners at £20,000; and it is consequently hoped that the general amount of distribution may be increased and not diminished. The two items on the credit side, which will mainly affect the dividend, are the debts, estimated to produce £56,137, and the amount, £19,258, for which parties will be debtors after retiring the bills accepted for their account. It was stated by Mr. Coleman that he is sanguine of a favourable result being arrived at, and that the estimate will be fully realised. At the date of the suspension the accounts showed a surplus of £54,130, and it was anticipated that arrangements could have been effected which would have enabled the partners to resume business. The subsequent failure of Messrs. Carr, Josling, and Co., with the other disasters in this particular branch of business, rendered the attempt nugatory, and hence the depreciation of assets and the present large deficiency. The whole of the operations of the house have been legitimate, and conducted on a purely mercantile basis, the capital absorbed, including the separate estates, being upwards of £72,000. Had it not been for the effects of the crisis in Sweden, there would have been ample to pay the English bill-holders 20*s*. in the pound. As it is, the assets first to be dealt with may, in the course of the next two months—that is to say, in February—produce about 3*s*. 4*d*. in the pound; and when this shall have been accomplished a better estimate of what may be the prospect of further payment can be formed. A liquidation under inspection was the course proposed, but before the resolutions affirming that determination were agreed to some discussion took place with regard to the position of Mr. Kleman in connection with the firm. It transpired that that gentleman was a partner, but, in addition, transacted business on his private account. His affairs are in a very involved condition, and his property, including landed and mineral estates, being situate in Sweden, it is expected he will have to avail himself of the process of bankruptcy in that country. In the books of Messrs. Hoare, Buxton and Co., there stands to his debit a sum of £31,000. Great sympathy, in the course of the proceedings, was expressed at the position in which the house is placed, and as it is considered desirable to take immediate action in winding up, three representatives of the creditors (who, it is suggested, shall have the assistance of two of the partners) were appointed for the purpose.

THE ESTATE OF MR. G. H. T. HICKS.

At a meeting on the 14th December of the creditors of Mr. G. H. T. Hicks, described as an East India merchant, who suspended on the 19th November, the following statement, prepared by Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, and Co., showing very discouraging results, was presented. It will be noticed that

the assets exhibit a dividend of not more than 3*s.* in the pound, and that the debts and liabilities reach the large total of £151,900. Affairs are to be wound up under inspection, and, through any process, it is evident that the arrangement must be effected as economically as possible.

Dr.					
To creditors unsecured				£67,488	3 9
Creditors holding security partly covered	£91,653	3	9		
Deduct estimated value of security ...	39,700	2	8		
				51,952	18 1
To creditors holding security fully covered	£67,385	1	2		
Liabilities on account of Birrell and Co.:—					
Partly covered	7,462	6	6		
Deduct securities held	5,500	0	0		
				1,962	6 6
Fully covered	3,745	1	8		
Liabilities on bills receivable, likely to be claimed against estate				28,697	19 6
Liabilities on bills, payable over and above amount included in creditors				1,798	16 3
				£151,900	4 1
Cr.					
By property held as security by creditors fully covered, estimated at	£83,652	9	11		
Deduct amount of their claims	67,385	1	2		
				£16,267	8 9
By debtors				1,723	3 3
Cash in hand				57	2 6
Homeward freight per "Queen of Ava"	2,000	0	0		
Ship "Kossuth"	5,000	0	0		
Average recoverable	2,000	0	0		
	7,000	0	0		
Deduct debts secured on ship	3,745	1	8		
				3,254	18 4
By ship "Tudor," 4-64, about				650	0 0
Ship "Carnatic," 4-64, about				400	0 0
Iron for Hastings				1,345	3 7
Office furniture, about				50	0 0
Bills of lading of goods shipped to Rangoon	£750	0	0		
				£23,747	16 5
By Birrell and Co., balance of account current, about...	£30,000	0	0		
Ships "Arabella," and three-fourths "Royal Albert," assigned to creditors of Birrell and Co.	10,000	0	0		

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. MENDES DA COSTA AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Mendes Da Costa and Co., West India merchants, whose suspension was announced on the 2nd, was held on the 15th December, when the following statement was presented by Mr. J. E. Coleman, the accountant:—

Dr.

To creditors on open accounts		£38,117	0 0
Creditors on bills payable	£217,689 0 0		
Of which it is expected there will be provided for by the parties for whose account the bills are given	46,833 0 0		
Leaving to rank on this estate ...		170,856	0 0
Liabilities on bills discounted	94,204 3 2		
Of which it is expected there will be duly met at maturity	69,004 3 2		
	£25,200 0 0		
Less security held	2,500 0 0	22,700	0 0
Bills purchased, negociated, &c., £36,475 16*s.* 7*d.* expected to be duly met at maturity.			
		£231,673	0 0

Cr.

By cash at bankers		£208	0 0
Railway shares and shares in the bank of St. Thomas...		1,830	0 0
Bills receivable on hand (good)		1,599	0 0
Ditto (bad)	£8,022 15 0		
Debtors (good)		7,574	0 0
Ditto (doubtful)	£47,425 18 8		
Ditto (bad)	42,592 11 6		
Amounts due by parties after they have retired the bills accepted for their account		12,520	0 0
Property, consisting of houses and stores at St. Thomas, belonging to Mr. Da Costa, sen., cost £15,000, estimated to realise...		10,000	0 0
Cargo of sugar, wood, &c., per Lotus, on hand, estimated at		2,000	0 0
		£55,731	0 0

Amount due from Messrs. Da Costa and Co., of St. Thomas		£112,311	1 10
Ditto, old firm of Charles Da Costa and Co.		2,558	7 1
Amount estimated to be realised from doubtful debts and bills on hand			

It was explained that this house, like many others, scarcely expected to find themselves in their present position a month ago, and that when, about about the middle of November last, the partners sought the assistance of their bankers, they thought they would have been able to proceed with

their business as usual. The devastation which has since occurred among mercantile firms, through the money pressure, has, however, involved them in the general ruin; and early in December they were compelled to succumb. Between the partnership in the London firm and that in St. Thomas there is a distinction, Mr. J. Mendes Da Costa being alone interested in the foreign establishment. The liabilities of the London firm are £231,673, and the assets £55,731. The amount due from Messrs. Da Costa and Co. of St. Thomas, is £112,311, arising out of purely mercantile transactions, and fully represented on the other side. According to the accounts of the 30th of August, the assets were then in due order, and it is expected that the result will be as follows:—It is estimated that about £42,000 of bills will go back upon the house at St. Thomas; that the firm are liable for and owe about £10,000; and that the damages and interest on bills will reach a further sum of £10,000, making a total of £62,000, and leaving a balance of £50,000. If forbearance is exercised, and assistance afforded, it is reasonably hoped that £30,000 of the amount may be recovered. The general statement will then stand in this position:—The assets of £55,000 will be increased, by the addition of the £30,000, to £85,700; and the liabilities decreased from the £231,000, by the £31,000 bills paid at St. Thomas, to £200,000, showing a dividend of about 8*s.* 9*d.* in the pound. The capital absorbed, after allowing for the drawings of the partners, has amounted to £50,000. The only discussion was in relation to the liquidation of the estate, the process of inspectorship being agreed to. It was stated at the close of the proceedings that the partners are denuded of everything, and that consequently, if Mr. Da Costa, jun., proceeds to Porto Rico to protect the interests of the creditors, it will be necessary to make him an allowance.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. GORRISSEN, HÜFFEL AND CO.

At the meeting held on the 17th December of the creditors of Messrs. Gorrissen, Hüffel and Co., engaged in business as banking and exchange agents, whose suspension was announced on the 18th October, Mr. E. Cohen presiding, the subjoined statement was presented by Mr. Quilter, of the firm of Quilter, Ball and Co., the accountants:

Dr.								
To sundry creditors, as per statement							£84,134	12 3
Creditor holding security		£7,757	0	0				
Estimated value of security ...		7,000	0	0				
							757	0 0
To Liabilities on acceptances—viz.,								
Provided for since the suspension ...	£255,898	7	3					
Not yet provided for, but which it is expected the drawers will meet ...	196,683	12	11					
Assumed claim on the estate	19,332	2	6				19,332	2 6
	£171,914	2	8					
To Liabilities on bills receivable, as per statement	£337,296	16	6					
Carried forward							£104,223	14 9

Brought forward			£104,223	14 9
Of which those considered likely to prove claims amount to	£21,643 11 1			
Less cash and surplus securities retained by bankers	2,157 1 7			
			19,486	9 6
Liabilities on charter parties			1,600	0 0
			£125,310	4 3

Cr.

By bills receivable on hand, considered good, as per list ...		£5,331	15 5
Ditto, belonging to other parties ...	£2,601 18 0		
Sundry debtors, considered good ...	£61,179 1 6		
Ditto, doubtful ... £15,346 17 2			
Estimated to produce	6,400 0 0		
Ditto, bad £3,235 13 6			
		67,579	1 6
Sundry merchandise on hand, as per statement estimated at		11,070	0 0
		£83,980	16 11

It was stated that the debts in America, amounting to £33,000, may be considered good, and that consequently the estimate of £67,579 under the head of assets, in which that sum is included, may be realised. A large amount of liabilities on acceptances has been provided for, so that the general total since the date of the suspension has been greatly reduced. According to the figures exhibited the dividend will be about 13*s.* 4*d.* in the pound, and at the suggestion of Mr. Hollams, the solicitor, it was agreed to follow out a liquidation by inspection, Mr. E. Cohen, Mr. J. H. Schroeder, and Mr. Meiville, being appointed to act as the committee. It transpired in the explanation rendered concerning the deficiency that the losses have been £58,000, and that the capital at the commencement at the year was about £6,000.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. ALEXANDER HINTZ AND CO.

At a meeting on the 18th December, of the creditors of Messrs. Alexander Hintz and Co., merchants, whose suspension took place on the 24th November, Mr. Wullf presiding, the annexed statements were exhibited by Mr. Quilter, of the firm of Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Co.:—

Dr.

To sundry creditors unsecured, as per statement		£31,899	10 7
Creditors partially secured—			
Amount of claims	£37,550 4 10		
Less estimated value of securities...	26,225 3 11		
		£11,325	0 11
Carried forward		£43,224	11 6

	Brought forward		£43,224 11 6
To Creditors fully secured—			
Estimated value of securities ...	17,703 10 3		
Amount of claims	15,078 3 7		
Surplus	£2,625 6 8		
Liabilities on acceptances—			
For account of other parties	£169,118 7 8		
Assumed claims on the estate ...			28,192 5 9
Liabilities on bills receivable, as per statement	171,039 6 4		
Of which it is estimated the claims on the estate will amount to			26,522 13 11
Liabilities for goods purchased principally on account of continental houses, and which should be paid for by them, assumed claim on this estate			3,500 0 0
Cr.			£101,439 11 2
By cash at banker's—			
Subject to bills current, but considered good			£5,620 11 0
Bills receivable on hand—			
Considered good			12,284 0 11
Ditto, doubtful	£1,388 6 11		
Estimated to realise			462 15 8
Sundry debtors—			
Considered good			9,165 14 11
Ditto, doubtful	14,480 17 10		
Estimated to produce			5,000 0 0
Considered bad	2,085 1 8		
Sundry merchandise on hand, as per statement, estimated at			6,187 16 2
Surplus securities, in hands of creditors			2,625 6 8
Office furniture...			200 0 0
			£41,546 5 4

Statement accounting for the Deficiency exhibited by the Statement of their Affairs, Nov. 25, 1857.

Dr.		
To deficiency Nov. 25, 1857		£59,893 5 10
To capital Jan. 1, 1857	£16,537 14 5	
Add subsequent profits	11,166 14 1	
		27,704 8 6
Note.—It appears from these figures that at the date of the suspension the capital account stood thus :—		
At credit, as above	£27,704 8 6	
At debit, as per contra	6,004 14 8	
Balance at credit	£21,699 13 10	
		£87,597 14 4

Cr.

By expenditure and losses incurred and ascertained up to the date of the suspension, Nov. 25, 1857, viz.—			
Trade charges	£779 6 0		
Bad debts and sundries	2,543 5 8		
Partners' drawings	2,662 3 0		
			£6,004 14 8
By losses accruing from and since the date of the suspension, viz—			
Estimated loss on bills receivable ...	£925 11 3		
Ditto on doubtful debts	9,480 17 10		
Depreciation in merchandize on hand thus—			
Cost £46,355 14 6			
Value 33,384 3 7			
	12,971 10 11		
			23,378 0 0
By liabilities in respect of bills which should be provided for by other parties, but which it is assumed will be claimed on this estate, viz.—			
On our acceptances	£28,192 5 9		
On bills receivable	26,522 13 11		
			54,714 19 8
By liabilities in respect of unfulfilled contracts	£3,500 0 0		
			58,214 19 8
			£87,597 14 0

The assets, it was explained, show a dividend of about 8*s.* in the pound, but if the liabilities are increased through fresh failures this amount will not be realised. The suspension of the firm at the period indicated has, it appears, proved beneficial, and the balance at the bankers, it is considered, may be relied on should an important house at Hamburg be able to struggle through present difficulties. Mr. Hollams, the solicitor, intimated that the course of arrangement suggested was the process of inspectorship, and that the creditors proposed to select Mr. Brown, Mr. Cæsar, and Mr. Abegg, to watch over their interests. Much sympathy was expressed for the position of the firm, and resolutions assenting to this mode of liquidation were passed.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. ALLEN AND SMITH.

At a meeting, on the 18th December, of the creditors of Messrs. Allen and Smith, whose suspension was announced on the 18th of November, the subjoined statement was presented by Mr. Ball, of the firm of Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Co., showing, on a trading of eight months, a deficiency of £15,762. This was principally created by the failure of houses at home and abroad connected with the Swedish trade :—

Dr.

To sundry creditors		£1,032	4 2
To liabilities on acceptances not expected to be proved against this estate, viz. :—			
Drafts from Stockholm against securities deposited there	£13,653 10 4		
Drafts on account of persons who will probably provide for them	9,958 14 6		
Sundry other acceptances	984 5 11		
	£24,596 10 9		
To liabilities on acceptances on account of parties considered bad		9,825	8 5
To liabilities on bills receivable—			
Considered good	£2,485 7 2		
Considered bad	9,620 17 2		
Less securities held	2,472 0 7		
		7,148	16 8
To liabilities in respect of estimated amount of loss on sundry unfulfilled contracts for saltpetre		2,300	0 0
		£20,306	9 3

Cr.

By cash in hand		£17	0 11
Bills on hand	£1,000 0 0		
Estimated to realise		750	0 0
Sundry debtors—			
Considered good	280 10 3		
Ditto doubtful	£1,250 16 10		
Estimated to realise ...	230 0 0		
Estimated bad	7,579 4 11	510	10 3
Consignments outstanding, estimated to realise ...		1,000	0 0
One-third share of the ship "G. B. Carr," of the estimated value £5,000		1,666	13 4
Timber on hand, estimated to realise		480	0 0
Office furniture, estimated value		120	0 0
		£5,544	4 6
Balance, being deficiency carried forward		15,762	4 9
Note.—This deficiency is liable to increase to the extent of any amount of the above liabilities, estimated as good proving bad.			
		£20,306	9 3

The feature in this case, according to the statement of Mr. M'Leod, was the position in which the senior partner was placed. Having joined Mr. Smith, they commenced with a capital belonging to Mr. Allen, of £5,000, which was subsequently increased to £7,000, and after trading for the short period stated they were compelled to suspend. The assets of the joint estate do not exceed £1,514, and they may be increased by the separate estate of Smith to the amount of £500. The separate property of Mr.

Allen is, however, considerable, and there appears no doubt but that the whole of the creditors will receive 20*s.* in the pound. Mr. Murray, who represented large and influential claimants, agreed to the course proposed, but some legal arrangements will have to be effected before the entire separate estate of Mr. Allen can be made available for the joint creditors. An immediate dividend of about 5*s.* in the pound will be declared pending the proceedings for the realisation of the other assets. In answer to a question, it was mentioned that the suspension was necessary to prevent the sacrifice of the whole of the property of Mr. Allen. Resolutions were then passed for a liquidation under inspection, and Mr. Ball was appointed official inspector to superintend the winding-up of the estate.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. BARBER, ROSENAUER AND CO.

The attendance of creditors, on the 18th December, at the meeting of Messrs. Barber, Rosenauer, and Co., whose suspension was announced on the 3rd, was very numerous, and the proceedings were of a rather protracted nature. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. W. Mitchell, and the statement presented by Mr. Henry Chatteris exhibited the subjoined unsatisfactory results :—

Dr.

To creditors unsecured			£17,771 16 6
To ditto, partially secured	£33,091 13 7		
Value of securities held	25,476 9 1		
		7,615 4 6	
To creditors fully secured	398 13 6		
Value of securities held	1,009 10 3		
Surplus contra...	610 16 9		
To liability on bills payable which should be retired by drawers ...	2,768 10 5		
Expected to be claimed on this estate			1,509 15 6
To liability on bills receivable negociated	55,451 16 10		
Expected to be dishonoured	6,419 7 1		
Less balance due to acceptors included with creditors	£735 11 11		
Less cash at bankers ...	92 4 11		
	827 16 10		
			5,591 10 3
			£32,488 6 9

Cr.

By produce abroad expected to realise	£631 6 7		
Less due to consignee...	58 9 10		
		£572 16 9	
By wine on hand			35 18 9
	Carried forward		£608 15 6

	Brought forward	£608	15 6
By Debtors considered good		1,993	1 11
Ditto doubtful £916 14 2			
Estimated to realise		136	0 0
By disputed debts £657 5 11			
Estimated to realise		220	0 0
By bad debts £3,202 2 3			
Surplus securities held by creditors		610	16 9
Cash in hand		127	16 9
Office furniture		100	0 0
		£3,796	10 11
Less rent and salaries, to be paid in full		46	6 1
		£3,750	4 10
By deficiency		28,738	1 11
		£32,488	6 9

The circumstances elicited in relation to this estate were of the most discouraging description. Having traded between two and three years to an enormous extent upon a limited capital, there is, upon debts and liabilities amounting to £32,488, a deficiency of £28,738. The remaining assets are of a very doubtful nature, and there seems to be little expectation of a dividend. The firm commenced in 1854, with a capital of about £4,000, and at the end of 1855, the profits reached £1,048, but the partners drew to the amount of £1,139. They continued to operate without the least regard to the probabilities of success, and in the end the net loss at the date of the present year when they suspended was £30,101, included in which were bad debts for £10,103, and depreciation of merchandise £13,967. Not confining their transactions to any particular branch, they traded in everything, but loss was invariably the consequence, and to illustrate the amount of their business it was stated that the value of merchandise which passed through their hands in 1856, was £213,000, while this year it represented £187,000. Complaints were made of the conduct of the partners in endeavouring to lead individuals to believe that their estate was better than it really appeared to be, especially as it transpired there was no separate property, and that Mr. Barber had settled his furnitnre, and a policy of insurance for £2,000, upon his wife. To a firm trading desperately like this, the certainty of a suspension must be apparent; and, as a creditor very sagaciously remarked, it would be sure to follow whether "the rate of money ruled at 2 or 10 per cent." The discussion which subsequently occurred, was directed to the measures that should be adopted to wind up the estate, and the great majority being in favour of bankruptcy, the annexed resolution was passed :—

"The creditors, after hearing a statement of the affairs, resolved—That, the estate be wound up under bankruptcy, and that Messrs. Barber, Rosenauer, and Co. be requested to sign a declaration of insolvency."

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. KRELL AND COHN.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Krell and Cohn, commission agents, who failed on the 7th, was held on the 21st December, when the following

statement was presented by Mr. Collison, of the firm of Messrs. Parrinton, Ladbury, and Co., the accountants:—

Dr.					
To creditors, as per list	£13,517	4	5		
Less amounts secured by goods in their hands	104	11	6		
				£13,412	12	11
Creditors in respect of bills drawn or accepted by Messrs. Krell and Cohn, and discounted, for which they have had value in full				6,187	10	9
Liabilities on bills accepted for persons who have failed, and which will be proved against the estate				2,290	4	2
Liabilities on bills receivable discounted, considered good	£20,406	7	4			
Liabilities which will be proved on this estate	2,181	9	4			
Less cash in the hands of bankers, who hold the bills	554	17	0			
				1,626	12	4
				£23,517	0	2
Cr.						
By stock in London and Lyons, at cost				£1,547	5	9
Stock with agents at Berlin, Vienna, Milan, Hamburg, Rotterdam, &c. ...	£2,698	10	6			
Subject to claims thereon	104	11	0			
				2,593	19	0
By book debts, good				8,551	7	3
Book debts, doubtful, bad, and disputed Estimated at	£4,746	10	6	1,216	6	1
Cash on hand				625	1	4
Bills receivable on hand, good				2,358	10	11
Bills receivable on hand, doubtful ... Estimated at	836	12	9	568	3	10
Cash at bankers'				113	16	7
Cash with bankers (held against bills discounted)	554	17	0			
Fixtures in London and Lyons				60	0	0
				£17,634	10	9
Less rent, salaries, &c.				96	15	0
				£17,537	15	9

It was explained that the assets, according to the statement, show a dividend of about 14*s.* 11*d.* in the pound, but that since the accounts were made up bad debts have increased. The firm possessed establishments both in London and Lyons. As commission agents, purchasing exclusively on orders they should hold no stock, and that which is in their hands has been returned through the unsettled state of affairs on the Continent, buyers not having completed their transactions. They commenced business without capital, and last year their balance-sheet showed a surplus of about £1,700.

Their difficulties are wholly attributed to the progress of the panic throughout Germany, which has involved them in a large amount of loss and bad debt. Mr. Reed, their professional adviser, detailed at length the circumstances under which the firm suspended, and the prospects of the creditors. Messrs. Krell and Cohn were, he stated, ready either to facilitate a liquidation through bankruptcy, to make an assignment, or to comply with any arrangement under inspection. With regard to a composition, they felt themselves placed in a doubtful situation, the state of business abroad and the difficulty of collecting debts not permitting them to make so good an offer as they should wish. Although the accounts exhibited 14*s.* 11*d.* in the pound, Messrs. Krell and Cohn were not prepared to propose a greater amount than 10*s.*; and if the creditors appeared inclined to accept it, they will endeavour to obtain security for the last instalment. Several of the creditors considered that the margin allowed between the assets represented and the sum required to pay 10*s.* in the pound was too large; but Mr. Reed and Mr. Parrinton both intimated that, owing to the situation of affairs in Hamburg, Berlin, and other places, the debtors felt that they could not hope to realise a larger amount, though they stated their readiness, if an excess were obtained, to make it available for the general benefit of the creditors. After some discussion, in which the agent of the foreign bankers bore testimony to the honest nature of the transactions of Messrs. Krell and Cohn, the following resolution was agreed to:—

"Resolved.—That it be referred to a committee, consisting of the chairman, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Kohnstammer, and Mr. John Scott, to consider and decide on the propriety of accepting the offer of composition made by Messrs. Krell and Cohn, or any larger amount of composition, and what security should be required for the last instalment, with liberty to require a variation in the times of payment."

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. REHDER AND BOLDEMANN.

The creditors of Messrs. Rehder and Boldemann, who failed on the 25th of November in the German trade, held a meeting on the 21st December when the following statement was presented by Mr. Ball, of the firm of Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Co., the accountants:—

Dr.

To sundry creditors unsecured, as per statement ..				£39,952	3
Creditors partially secured, as per statement—					
Amount of claims	£9,498	9	8		
Estimated value of securities ...	3,874	4	0		
				5,624	5
To creditors fully secured—					
Estimated value of securities ...	20,528	8	7		
Amount of claims	15,984	17	0		
Surplus ...	4,543	11	7		
To liabilities on acceptances, as per statement	114,348	14	5		
Secured to the extent of the value of consignments on hand of the estimated value of	32,922	2	6		
Carried forward				£45,576	8

Brought forward		£45,576	8 10
Assumed to be claims on this estate		2,070	11 9
To liabilities on bills receivable, as per statement £136,294 19 6			
Of which those considered likely to prove claims amount to 10,208 19 2			
Less cash balance retained by bankers 982 16 6			
	9,226	2	8
To estimated claim in respect of goods bought and not delivered	1,000	0	0
	£57,873	3	3

Cr.

By cash and bills receivable on hand, considered good, as per statement	£4,312	12	2
Cash retained by bankers, per contra ... £982 16 6			
By sundry debtors—			
Considered good £5,474 10 10			
Ditto doubtful, £5,199 9 11			
Estimated to produce 1,949 16 3			
	7,424	7	1
Ditto bad £642 17 11			
By sundry merchandise on hand, as per statement—			
At home £18,090 1 1			
Abroad 306 0 0			
	18,396	1	1
By sundry property, as per statement	550	0	0
Surplus securities held by creditors, per contra	4,543	11	7
Property deposited as security for certain returned bills, which it is considered will be paid	2,273	0	0
	£37,499	11	11

Dr. STATEMENT ACCOUNTING FOR THE DEFICIENCY.

To deficiency, November 25, 1857, as per statement of affairs,	£20,373	11	4
To partners' capital—			
January 1, 1857 ... ... £6,991 1 9			
Add subsequent profits 3,698 18 3			
	10,690	0	0
	£31,063	11	4

Cr.

By trade charges	£1,152	16	8
By losses on merchandise realised, estimated depreciation in value of unrealised stock, now valued at £43,437 9*s.* 8*d.*, and sundries	15,128	6	0
By bad and doubtful debts, viz.:—			
Estimated loss on doubtful 3,249 13 8			
Bad 642 17 11			
	3,892	11	7
Carried forward	£20,173	14	3

	Brought forward			£20,173	14 3
By partners' drawings, from January 1, 1857				2,096	14 2
By liabilities, viz. :—					
On acceptances	£2,070	11	9		
On bills receivable	10,208	19	2		
On goods bought, but not delivered ...	1,000	0	0		
	£13,279	10	11		
Less produce held by creditors	4,486	8	0		
				8,793	2 11
				£31,063	11 4

These figures exhibit a dividend of about 12*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, but it is not certain that this amount will be realised. The firm commenced business on the 1st of January in the present year with a capital of £6,991, and the failure, it appears, has been caused by the depreciation of produce and the failure of other houses. In answer to a question, it was stated that there have been no accommodation transactions, but blank credits have been opened on foreign account to the extent of £114,348. On these, however, only a small amount of claim is anticipated. Some of the creditors appeared to believe that there is little difference between the terms "blank credits" and "accommodation transactions." Mr. Hollams, who attended for Messrs. Rehder and Boldemann, intimated that these gentlemen are not in a position to make any proposal, and that it has been suggested the most prudent course would be to effect a liquidation through inspection. The deficiency between the assets and liabilities is £20,000, but the depreciation on produce has been upwards of £23,000. The produce in which the firm is interested consists of tea, cotton, and other articles, and consequently the estate could be readily put in process of liquidation. It was eventually agreed to wind up under inspection, the following creditors being appointed to superintend :—Mr. Maurenbrether, Mr. Alvers, and Mr. J. Trueman.

THE LONDON AND EASTERN BANKING COMPANY.

On the 25th November Vice-Chancellor Sir W. P. Wood made an order upon the petition of Major Cornfield, a shareholder, for the winding up of this concern and appointed Mr. Stuart interim manager. On the 12th December the question as to the appointment of official managers was argued before the Vice-chancellor's chief clerk, who nominated Messrs. Ball and Harding. With this appointment some of the shareholders were dissatisfied, and the case was on the 21st argued in open court, when the Vice-chancellor ultimately appointed Messrs. Stuart and Ball to be the managers. As soon as it was determined that the bank should be wound up, Mr. James Edward Stephens, the late manager, retired to Scotland, and declared himself in the Bankruptcy Court at Edinburgh, a bankrupt, and his name forthwith appeared in the official *Gazette*. His examination took place before Mr. Sheriff Substitute Hallard on Monday, December 7, when he underwent a most severe examination, which extended over four entire days, during which he was compelled to make some very extraordinary disclosures with respect to the general conduct of the bank, his own share therein, and also that of some of the directors. At the end of the fourth

day his examination was adjourned till the following Monday, but on that day he did not appear. He, however, sent a letter excusing himself on the ground of ill health, and the necessity he found himself under of investigating certain books and accounts before he made any further revelations. This excuse was deemed unsatisfactory, and a warrant, on the application of the opposing creditors, was immediately issued for his apprehension; but when he was sought for he was *non est*, and from that time to the present it is understood that nothing whatever has been heard of him. So the matter rests. Although not in person Mr. Stephens was again brought before public notice on the 18th December, when an action was brought against him in the Court of Exchequer by the directors of the Oriental Bank (who took up the business of the Eastern Bank) to recover the amount of a bond which he had given to the latter establishment for money advanced, &c., and the jury, without hesitation, returned a verdict for the plaintiff, for £6,011 6*s.* 5*d.*

[We have lengthened reports of these proceedings in type, but are compelled to postpone their insertion to our next number.]

THE CITY OF GLASGOW BANK.

A NUMEROUS meeting of the shareholders of this bank was held at Glasgow on the 1st December, Mr. Andrew Orr presiding. The meeting unanimously agreed that the bank be registered in terms of the Joint-Stock Bank Companies' Act, 1857, it being explained that the design was not to wind up, but to secure the same vantage ground as the chartered banks. The meeting also agreed unanimously that a committee of gentlemen unconnected with the bank be appointed to investigate its affairs, and report to an adjourned meeting on the 8th December, and that a guarantee fund of half a million be raised to enable the bank to resume business without delay. On the day named the report was presented, and stated that the balance of assets amounted to £667,533, thus showing a deficiency in the capital account of £77,576; the deficiency was caused by the depreciation in railway and other securities held by the bank, which might yet be made up. A resolution was passed, that the affairs of the bank were such as to warrant an immediate resumption of business, and that the directors be instructed to take the necessary steps for that purpose. It was stated that £500,000 in hand would be necessary before resumption, and steps were being taken to raise it immediately, either by deposits or by a guarantee fund. The liabilities of the bank were £4,455,000; the assets, after deductions as stated above, £5,107,000, to which was added £15,640, being a half-year's profit.

THE WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND.

A MEETING of the shareholders of this bank was held at Glasgow on the 2nd December, Mr. James Dunlop, the senior director, in the chair. About 400 were present from all parts of the country. It was resolved to register the company under the Joint-Stock Banking Companies' Act of 1857.

The Chairman said that the best endeavours of the directors had been thwarted by the late manager, who disregarded their express instructions and gave great advances to unworthy persons. The directors in their report

said their chances in resuming business were lessened by the provinci agents going over to the Edinburgh banks. The agents who had alreac seceded represent £2,000,000 of deposits, and agents representing £1,000,0(more were in the act of seceding.

A committee of shareholders was appointed to go over the books alor with the directors, and report to an adjourned meeting on the 17th December.

A proposal was made to resuscitate the bank, but it could not in tl meantime be entertained.

At the adjourned meeting on the 17th, the report of the committee investigation was given in. It stated that the liabilities of the bank we £8,911,032*l.*; the assets for payment of the liabilities were £8,607,240 showing a deficiency of assets of £304,692, and thus making, including tl capital and rest, reported in last statement at £1,715,892, an estimated lo on the whole transactions of the company of £2,020,548. The heads und which the deficiency arose were minutely stated. On bills held by the bar the loss was £437,000; on advances and balances on current account £885,000; on securities held in New York, £60,000; on debts in suspen account, £685,000, and other items. The assets were valued as for windin up, not as a solvent and going concern; but with prudent management ar better times, there might yet be a great saving on the estimated loss.

The bank's misfortunes were attributed to gross negligence on the pa of the directors, and wild recklessness in Taylor, the late manager.

After a stormy discussion the committee was reappointed.

The shareholders were again to meet on the 30th December to take ste for winding up.

SUSPENSION OF THE WORCESTER BANK OF MESSRS. FARLE LAVENDER AND CO.

THE stoppage of the bank of Messrs. Farley, Lavender and Co., Worcester, was announced on the 11th of December. The bank had be established upwards of 60 years, but had for some time been declining. had a privileged circulation of £15,463, but the amount of notes outstan ing at the time of the suspension was not much above £4,000.

The first meeting of the creditors was held at Worcester on the 21st, receive a statement of liabilities and assets. T. G. Curtler, Esq., preside and there was a large attendance. The proceedings occupied about tw hours, but were unanimous.

Mr. Pidcock, attorney for the bankrupts, Messrs. Owen and Gutch, la before the meeting a history of the bank from 1844, when the firm co sisted of Messrs. Farley, Lawrence, Owen and Gutch, and the capital w £30,000, of which Mr. Farley contributed £10,000, Mr. Lawrence £10,00 and Messrs. Owen and Gutch £5,000 each. Mr. Lawrence, who was M Gutch's father-in-law, lent him his £5,000, and also lent Mr. Owen £1,50 These sums are still owing to his executors. When Mr. Farley and M Lawrence died, the present partners, Owen and Gutch, continued the fir with a reduced capital. There was about £5,000 in cash and good bills i the bank when it suspended payment.

Mr. Kettle, accountant, produced their statement of liabilities and asset The total liabilities were £89,451 15s. 2d., and of assets £49,659 3s. 11d leaving a deficiency of £39,792 11s. 3d. The separate estate of M Gutch showed credits to £6,810, and debits £10,500, including the £10,00

owing to Saunders' executors, and Mr. Owen's separate credits were £2,905 and debits £3,179 16s.

The Chairman announced that Miss Saunders was willing to forego her claim for £13,750 due to her as executrix of her father, if the general creditors would not attack Mr. Gutch's life interest in a property worth about £1,500, he being in his eighty-second year. There was also a sum of about £4,000 sterling in the funds, which she intended to appropriate in liquidation of the poorer class of claimants under the estate.

The announcement was cheered, and a resolutien was passed for proceeding with the bankruptcy and approving of what had been done; and also recommending J. W. Willis, Esq., and Mr. J. B. Read, merchants, as assignees.

A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

Banking and Commercial Law.

THE LAW RELATING TO CROSSED CHEQUES.

A CASE on the subject of crossed cheques has just been decided in the Court of Common Pleas which has attracted considerable attention, and appears to disturb what was supposed to have been settled by previous decisions or by the late Act 19 and 20 Vict. c. 25.

We do not share in all the apprehensions which have been publicly expressed on this subject, and we think the particular decision in question may be supported without causing inconvenience, but we entirely disapprove of the reasons assigned by the court for its judgment, which, with great deference and respect, we submit are not satisfactory to the banking or the legal professions.

The facts of the case are very simple. The customer of a banker drew a cheque and crossed it so carelessly that the crossing was easily obliterated, without leaving any appearance of alteration on the cheque; and the bankers, without knowing it had been crossed, paid it to a party who had improperly acquired it. The jury found that no negligence could be imputed to the bankers, and after discussion before the full court it was held that the bankers were not liable.

Now we are not disposed to argue that this decision was wrong, and it appears to us that if it had been otherwise it would have been very hard on the bankers, and would have increased unduly the risks attending the conduct of their business.

We would let the judgment rest on the simple and rational

ground that the plaintiff had not taken all the precautions he might have taken when he crossed the cheque to prevent the crossing from being removed, and had thereby caused his own misfortune. It is true the jury found there was no negligence on the part of the plaintiff or the bank, but it is undeniable that the crossing might easily have been made so as to defy any alteration which could not readily have been detected. The cheque, we presume, was inspected by the jury, and if it appeared from such inspection that the cheque had been tampered with and a crossing obliterated, we think the bankers would have been justly liable to bear the loss resulting from the payment. We are bound, however, to assume that the ordinary inspection of the cheque did not disclose that it had been crossed. The question is then brought within the ordinary rule, that when a loss is to be borne by one of two innocent parties it must fall upon that party whose acts have most contributed to the loss.

We should have thought this view borne out by the cases of *Whitmore* v. *Wilks*, and *Young* v. *Grote*, referred to in *Shaw on Cheques*, page 28.

The Court of Common Pleas seems to have proceeded on different grounds, and to have maintained positions which deprive the custom of crossing of all utility.

Mr. Justice Cresswell said, "This case depends upon the effect to be given to the statute 19 and 20 Vict., c. 25, 'An Act to amend the law relating to drafts on bankers.' Before the statute was passed, a customer of a bank, by drawing a cheque and writing across it the name of another banker, did not limit the authority of the drawer to paying the party or firm whose name was so written across it. It did not amount to a direction to the drawer, but had the effect of calling for vigilance on his part; and where a banker had paid otherwise than to the party so designated, it was held that the question was not whether he had acted contrary to orders, but whether he had been guilty of negligence."

Thus far the judgment appears to us to support the argument we have maintained. Crossing was to a certain extent supported by the law. It had legal consequences. It called for vigilance on the part of the banker, and all the facts of any case would have to be submitted to a jury, who would say whether by paying a crossed cheque to a party not being a banker, the drawer had been guilty of negligence. Such a question could not arise on the payment of a cheque either not crossed or not presenting a suspicious appearance.

The law, although not so effective as the public had supposed,

still gave some protection, and we apprehend that protection was intended to be increased rather than diminished by the recent act.

The judge proceeds:—"It formed no part of the instrument itself, and in no way altered its effect." (See the judgment of Parke, Baron, in *Bellamy* v. *Majoribanks*, 7 Ex., 403.)

Here we think the judge's expressions must not be taken literally, because we see that the effect certainly was different when there was a crossing to what it was when there was no crossing.

He continues thus:—"This statute was passed for the purpose of making such matter written across a cheque, whether written by the drawee or payee, operate as a direction to the banker to pay in that mode, and to render the cheque payable in that mode only. I think the statute must mean that the cheque is to bear the crossing when presented. If so the cheque in question did not bear it, and the banker was not prohibited from paying it otherwise than to or through a banker."

Here we think an attempt is made to extend the statute at first, and then to limit it afterwards, which is not warranted.

In our opinion, it never was intended by the statute to make the banker liable in a case like the present, or to exempt him from liability for the reason assigned.

The drawer or payee ought to cross so as to guard against erasure, and then if the cheque shows that a crossing which once existed has been obliterated, the banker ought not to pay, except through a banker, or after inquiry.

The case is still further obscured by the confusion in which Mr. Justice Cresswell and also the Chief Justice involve themselves, when they apply the rules relating to forgery to the question. We would answer all that is said in this point by observing that, although an instrument may be a forgery, as regards the conduct and punishment of the guilty party, yet it may operate as a valid instrument, as affects third parties. The case of *Young* v. *Grote* is a familiar instance of this position.

In commenting thus freely on the judgment in this case, we are aware that much difficulty is created by the duty of the judges to give effect to the revenue laws and to mercantile customs at the same time.

The stamp acts require a cheque to be payable to bearer, the custom of crossing requires payment through a banker; the Courts, anxious to reconcile both, have declared the effect to be that the banker must pay to bearer through a banker, or make inquiry. In practice this has worked tolerably well, and we do not think the decisions in *Bellamy* v. *Majoribanks*,

Carlon v. *Ireland,* or *Simmonds* v. *Taylor,* could have been different to what they were, or that they have caused any injustice.

The observations of the judges in the last case, rather than the decision itself, appear to us calculated to cause mischief, and we regret that such refined subtleties were resorted to in order to lead to a result which might have been reached by simpler means.

According to Mr. Justice Cresswell, the crossing may be erased, and the banker will be justified in disregarding it, although the erasure be palpable. On the other hand, it is not laid down that the banker would do wrong if he refused to pay under such circumstances, and therefore, after all, the degree of protection to be enjoyed by the public seems to rest with the bankers themselves.

Legal Miscellany.

CROSSED CHEQUES.

SIMMONDS *v.* TAYLOR, PUBLIC OFFICER.

In the Court of Common Pleas, on the 8th December, judgment was given in this case. It was an action by a customer of the London Joint-Stock Bank against the bank for money lent. The defendant pleaded payment. The cause was tried on the 16th of February last, before the Lord Chief Justice at Guildhall. It appeared at the trial that the plaintiff intending to send a crossed cheque to a Mr. Masters, put it in the post. The letter by some means miscarried. The empty envelope was put under Mr. Masters's door, with the words, "The finder is much obliged," written on it, and the cheque was presented at the bank by a stranger and paid in the ordinary way over the counter. It was proved that when presented for payment to the defendants the crossing had been so ingeniously obliterated that it was next to impossible to tell that it ever had been crossed. The jury found that neither the plaintiff nor defendant had been guilty of any negligence; and a verdict was entered for the defendant, with liberty to the plaintiff to move to enter a verdict for him. The statute 19th and 20th Victoria, cap. 25, relating to drafts on bankers, enacts, "In every case where a draft on any banker, made payable to bearer or to order on demand, bears across its face *an addition* in written or stamped letters, of the name of any banker, or of the words 'and company,' in full or abbreviated, either of such additions shall have the force of a direction to the bankers upon whom such draft is made, that the same is to be paid only to or through some banker, and the same shall be payable only to or through some banker;" and the important question raised in this case was whether, with reference to this clause, the bank having paid a check which had been crossed by the customer, but did not appear to be a crossed cheque when presented, and having exercised due caution, the bank or the customer should bear the loss.

A rule to enter a verdict for the plaintiff having been obtained and argued,

Mr. Justice Cresswell said that this case depended upon the effect of the 19th and 20th Victoria, cap. 25, "An act to amend the law relating to drafts upon bankers." Before the passing of that act a customer crossing a cheque did not limit the payment of that cheque to the person named in the crossing, and when the banker paid such cheque to another person, the question was not whether he had acted contrary to orders, but had he been guilty of negligence? The crossing formed no part of the instrument itself, according to the decision in *Bellamy* v. *Majoribanks*. The act above referred to had been passed to make the crossing of a cheque operate as a direction to the banker to pay in that mode only. The act recited that it would conduce to the ease of commerce and the prevention of crime, if drawers of cheques were enabled effectually to direct payment of the same to be made only to or through some banker; and therefore it was enacted, "that in every case where a cheque bore across its face, in addition, in written or stamped letters, the name of any banker, and the words 'and Co.,'" it should have the force of a direction to his banker that the same was to be paid only to or through some banker. This enactment did not apply only to the time when the cheque was issued, for the preamble contemplated the crossing not by the drawer, but also by the holder. It would hardly be considered that if one holder had a right to cross the cheque another holder might not erase the crossing. He thought that the statute must mean that the cheque must bear the crossing in question when presented, and if that were so, then this cheque did not bear it. It was further to be considered, whether the crossing was a part of the cheque, and the erasure of it, consequently, a forgery. The statute said the crossing should have the force of a direction; and it would seem strange, that being so, if a holder had the power of altering without destroying the cheque. On the other hand it would be strange to enact that one holder might cross and that another could not erase it. If he could, the crossing would be part of the cheque only so long as he held it. If the crossing were not part of the cheque, then the cheque once crossed, but the crossing afterwards erased, and if the cheque were then presented through a banker, that was all that was required. He was of opinion that a crossing did not become part of the cheque, and that the rule to enter a verdict must be discharged.

The Lord Chief Justice said that it was not without considerable hesitation that he had brought himself to coincide in the view taken by his learned brothers. It had occurred to him that though the legislature had not contemplated making a banker responsible in a case like the present, yet that such would be the indirect effect of the act, inasmuch as the legislature having now made the crossing of the cheque equivalent to a direction not to pay except the cheque was presented through a banker, any alteration of the cheque by erasing the crossing would be a forgery, and therefore the erasure of the crossing would make it a forged instrument, which the banker could not credit himself with if he paid. On more mature consideration, he thought that there was a fallacy in that view, and that his learned brothers were right. It was a fallacy to say that the crossing formed any part of the cheque. He thought it was a more correct view of the matter to say that the crossing of the cheque was a direction made in addition to the cheque; that it was not an integral portion of the cheque, as he was originally induced to think; and the alteration, therefore, did not amount to a forgery, and it could not be said that the banker had paid a forged instrument.

Rule discharged.

PRESENTATION OF A CHEQUE.

LAWES *v.* RAND.

In the Court of Common Pleas, on the 8th December, Mr. Justice Cresswell gave judgment in this case, which was an action on a cheque, and the only question was, whether it had been presented in time. The cheque had been drawn in 1856, and was not presented until the 30th March, 1857. The true principle had been laid down correctly in the case of *Robinson* v. *Hawksford*, that no time would be unreasonable within the six years unless loss were caused by the delay.

Rule to enter a verdict for the plaintiff absolute.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

ROYAL BANK OF IRELAND.

At the annual general meeting of the Shareholders, held, pursuant to the deed of settlement, at the Bank House, Foster-place, November 11th, Patrick Reid, Esq., chairman of the board of directors, in the chair, the following report from the board of directors was submitted to the meeting:—

Report of the Directors to the Shareholders at the Twenty-first Annual General Meeting, held 11th November, 1857.

The paid-up capital of the bank is			£209,175	0 0
The reserve fund			77,000	0 0
The profits of the year ended 31st August last, after deducting expenses of management, including income tax, and providing for bad and doubtful debts, amount to			£36,863	15 9
Out of which have been paid to the shareholders two half-yearly dividends, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, amounting to	£12,550	10 0		
Also two half-yearly bonuses of 3 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively, amounting to	16,734	0 0		
Making a total of 14 per cent. on the year			29,284	10 0
And leaving a Surplus of			£7,579	5 9
To which adding the unappropriated balance of last year			6,216	11 10
Makes a sum of			£13,795	17 7
From which has been taken, in accordance with the resolution of the shareholders at their last annual meeting, and added to the reserve fund (making that fund, as above, £77,000)			9,500	0 0
Leaving unappropriated at the present date			£4,295	17 7

It is a gratification to the directors to be again enabled to submit a statement showing a prosperous condition of the affairs of the bank, and which indicates so clearly the success that has attended their efforts to develop its resources, and, while making them useful to the public, to render them profitable to the shareholders.

This favourable result is mainly attributable to the sound condition of the agricultural and commercial community, and the absence of over-trading, combined with a prevailing rate of discount, during the period embraced by the report, which, while beneficial to the employment of capital, was not embarrassing to either of the interests adverted to.

It will be observed that the Directors have taken advantage of the power conferred upon them by a resolution passed at the last annual meeting, to make a considerable addition to the reserve fund; and they have no hesitation in reiterating the conviction which induced them to recommend this course to the shareholders as one calculated to promote the best interests of the bank.

It was moved by Patrick Reid, Esq., chairman; seconded by Edward Atkinson, Esq., deputy chairman, and resolved unanimously—"That the report now read be received and adopted, and that the same be printed and circulated among the shareholders."

Moved by Joseph Boyce, Esq.; seconded by George Phelps, Esq., and resolved unanimously—"That the thanks of the shareholders are justly due and are hereby given to the directors for their able management of the affairs of the bank."

Moved by James Perry, Esq.; seconded by John Quinlan, Esq., and resolved unanimously—"That the thanks of the shareholders are fully due, and are hereby given, to Mr. Copland, manager, and Mr. North, sub-manager, for their satisfactory and successful conduct of the business of the bank.

Mr. Reid having been moved from the chair, and James Perry, Esq., called thereto,

It was moved by Robert Millner, Esq.; seconded by Denis O'Connor, Esq., and resolved unanimously—"That the best thanks of the meeting be given to Patrick Reid, Esq., for his satisfactory fulfilment of the duties of the chair this day."

LONDON CHARTERED BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

The half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors of this company was held on Friday, December 11, at the London Tavern; Duncan Dunbar, Esq., in the chair.

The abstract of profit and loss account, at June 30, 1857, showed:—To sixth dividend of 2½ per cent. for half-year ending Dec. 31, 1856, £16,875; to proportion of preliminary expenses for half-year ending June 30, 1857, £581 4*s.* 4*d.*; to proposed dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on paid-up capital for half-year ending June 30, 1857 (free of income tax), £21,000; balance to next half-year, £10,092 18*s.* 1*d.*;—total, £48,549 2*s.* 5*d.* By balance at Dec. 31, 1856, per last report, £22,977 6*s.* 1*d.*; balance of profit and loss in London and in the colonies for half-year ending June 30, 1857, £25,571 16*s.* 4*d.*; total, £48,549 2*s.* 5*d.* By balance, £10,962 18*s.* 1*d.*

The Chairman said he believed that the proprietors were aware that this was the annual meeting, and that on this occasion they did not enter into the details of accounts, as that was done at the June meeting, when a full statement of the company's affairs would be laid before them. He

did not know whether the proprietors, having had the abstract of the and loss account in their hands for some days, wished to have the sta read (cries of "no, no,"). He could safely say he had often h pleasure of meeting the proprietors, and of experiencing their ki but now he had the gratification of saying that their bank had neve so well. The board were enabled to offer the proprietors a dividend rate of 6 per cent. per annum (without income tax), and to carry f a very good balance to the next year (cheers). All the accounts fr colony had been thoroughly sifted, and they had not a single s which gave the board anxiety. If he added that they had not c debt, he might say there was one exception, where the debt mi regarded by some persons as doubtful, but in this case they hel security (hear). The last accounts which had been received fr colony represented everything in the most favourable and cheering Gentlemen knew that the money crisis in this country had cause great anxiety everywhere, but it had not affected Melbourne, tho could not promise them that it would not do so; but hitherto it h been the case (cheers); it had not affected them in the least (cheers). reference to the balance of £10,092 carried forward to next yea persons might think that they should begin to create a reserved fun he thought it would be better to do so in June, when he hoped they have a balance of better than double this amount (cheers). He wish to be too sanguine, because he had been accused of being too n the habit of putting on the *coleur de rose* (laughter), but he repeate in his humble opinion, the bank had never attained such a position There was no necessity for him to make a long speech, and he therefore move that a dividend of 3 per cent. on the paid-up cap the half-year ending June 30, 1857 (free of income tax) be paid after the 15th of January next (cheers).

Mr. Yool begged to second the resolution. He was sure that proprietors would have the greatest pleasure in receiving this add half per cent. dividend on the last half-year's business, over the cent. given on the preceding occasion. Looking to the state of the market for some time past in England, he must congratulate the holders on the way in which the bank had been managed by the bo directors. He must say that he had very little doubt in his ow in June last, when the hon. chairman seemed to be rather "in the d (laughter), and did not hold out the prospect of an additional di that they would have it (cheers). He was confident, from the adı manner in which the bank had been conducted, and from the p which it had taken, they must soon approximate those other banks were in existence before this, and which were paying at least 15 pe and in some cases 40 per cent. dividends, with a reserve fund (in so stances) of £40,000. He had no doubt in his own mind that this i tion had taken deep root. The only point in which he differed fr chairman was that of the question of a reserve fund. He thoug till those who had "borne the brunt" were in the receipt of divid the extent of 7 or 8 per cent., there was no reason why they shoul mence a reserve fund. With these observations he begged to sec motion.

The Chairman put the question, and the resolution was unanimously.

The Chairman begged to state that the meeting having been ca the special purpose of declaring a dividend only, there was no othe ness, and that therefore the meeting was at an end.

Mr. Tite, M.P., thought the proprietors ought to make it their "special" business to return thanks to the chairman and directors, and he would therefore respectfully move that the thanks of the meeting be given to the chairman and board of directors for their care and attention to the interests of the company (cheers).

The resolution was seconded *en masse* and with extraordinary acclamation.

The Chairman said, he had great pleasure, on behalf of himself and his brother directors, in returning thanks for this mark of the confidence of the proprietors. They had had the approbation of the shareholders, and they had received every kindness from them. The directors would do their best, and would work harder (if it was possible) in future, than they had done in times gone by (loud applause).

The meeting then separated.

BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE half-yearly meeting of the proprietors was held on Monday, December 14th, at the offices of the company, in Threadneedle-street; Oliver Farrer, Esq., the chairman, in the chair.

The Secretary having read the advertisement convening the meeting, next read the following statement of the directors to the proprietors:—

"1. The practice at the December meetings, which the shareholders are aware are held in compliance with their expressed wishes, and not under any provisions of the charter or deed of settlement, is not to present accounts. The directors, therefore, in conformity with established precedent, have only to offer a few observations on the affairs of the bank since the last annual meeting.

"2. The directors have to express their satisfaction with the continued prosperity of the bank. A careful review of the advances enables them to state, that they are of a safe character, and represent sound commercial transactions; an opinion which is confirmed by the reports of their officers. The bills under discount were met with great regularity, affording evidence of the stability of credit, and no bad debts of any importance had occurred during the half-year. At the same time, the directors must remind the proprietors, that the fluctuations in trade to which the Australian markets are peculiarly liable, and the high price of bullion rendering exchange operations of little profit, considerably augment the difficulties of banking.

"3. The general progress and increasing prosperity of the Australian colonies are subjects for sincere congratulation. The production of gold had increased. Fresh discoveries had been made, and the newly-found gold field at Mount Ararat, in the colony of Victoria, bids fair to rival, in the permanency and richness of its yield, the old diggings at Ballarat.

"4. The directors have pleasure in expressing their unabated confidence in the judgement and ability of the superintendent, Mr. Falconer, and the assistant superintendent, Mr. M'Arthur, and their approbation of the general good conduct of the other officers on the colonial establishment.

"5. The directors are enabled to intimate their intention to continue the present rate of dividend and bonus of 20 per cent. per annum, at April next, payable, as usual, free of income tax."

The Chairman, in addressing the meeting, said it was very unfortunate that he found himself that day occupying the chair at this meeting, for he could assure the proprietors that his rapidly-increasing infirmities and

decreasing powers had long since warned him that this high position should be transferred to other and younger hands. (No. no.) Nevertheless, there were circumstances attending the present meeting that rendered the expression of opinion as to the condition of the colonies imperative on him; and therefore it was, that at the request of his brother directors he had once more the honour to represent the court of directors; and in so doing he thought he should have no very difficult task, because there was nothing but that which was favourable to state. It was a subject of sincere congratulation to know that the colonies of Australia were, with one single exception, in a flourishing, prosperous, and progressive condition. The single exception was that of Tasmania (or Van Diemen's Land), where things were not so prosperous as in the other parts of those vast colonies; but it was to be hoped that time would restore its former prosperity. In New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia everything was advancing in a rapid and satisfactory manner. Electric telegraphs were established, and railways were being formed, and the great Murray River being opened up, had been productive of great commercial advantages. But of all the countries up to the last advices, of which he spoke, the accounts were most satisfactory, and showed they were in a most prosperous condition, and much more so comparatively with other periods that had gone before. He felt he need not go into details, because the statement which had been read told them in a few words very clearly all that which, if he were to spend a considerable time in speaking, would leave only a lighter impression on their minds. In the observations which he made he begged it to be understood he spoke on the last advices which had been received. He did not presume to prophesy how the direful effects of the monetary crisis in this country might affect those colonies, but he hoped and trusted the effects would not be severe. (Hear, hear.) At the same time it would be idle to suppose that those colonies would escape that commercial distress which had, unhappily, spread over Europe and America; but up to the time of which he spoke the board knew of nothing but of that which was successful. (Cheers.) Nevertheless, he again must guard himself from its being supposed that he thought there might be some reaction in the colonies. He had now only to say a few words as to the position of their own establishment. In his humble opinion it was never in a more satisfactory, sound, and safe position. (Loud cheers.) If he were to tell them, as men of sense and business men, that they could expect to go on making those enormous profits which followed the first discoveries of the gold fields, they would not, he was sure, believe him. He was content to say that their business was that which was satisfactory; but a variety of circumstances had tended to a diminution of profits, at the same time the profits which they were known to be making must satisfy any reasonable or rational person, because if they had not had such extraordinary times of success arising from the gold discoveries, their profits would have been chimerical. Their business, he repeated, was most prosperous, and to satisfy himself and his brother directors on this point, he had gone through, with Mr. Milliken, all parts of their transactions to ascertain if by possibility he could discover anything which was wrong, and he arrived at the conclusion that the bank was never in so satisfactory a position as it was at present. The report or statement told them that during the last year they had made no bad debts to speak of. If it were true that they had made no bad debts in an establishment of this magnitude, with a vast amount of bills and customers, they would see it was impossible but that some misfortune must arise; but in the course of the previous half-year they had put down that which was deemed irrecoverable, of which they had recovered more than the whole amount of bad

debts which had since arisen. Well, then, it might be asked, what losses had they? He would tell the meeting. (Hear.) In the wild days of speculation accounts had grown up, which it was afterwards impossible to keep under due control, and which for a time had given the directors great uneasiness, but he did not believe they now had one of that description. He did not mean to say they had not large accounts outstanding, but they had for them that description of security which was satisfactory, and those accounts were gradually diminishing, and he did not believe they would ultimately sustain any loss. The managers had been enabled to strike off sums of money to the reserve against bad debts, and those sums they knew were very large. He must congratulate the proprietors upon the fortunate position in which they now stood. They were now, to a certain extent, rapidly obtaining the benefit of their forbearance. The proprietors had allowed the board not only to raise a fund of £200,000 as a guarantee fund, but also to deal with the balance of undivided profit which, at October, 1856, amounted to £201,700; and if they had that at the present time to go back upon, the directors had no difficulty in saying that they were prepared to pay a dividend and bonus of 20 per cent., seeing that they still kept in hand a large balance (cheers). He might be wrong, but this was the reason why he filled the chair upon this occasion; because he had strongly advocated this, and therefore he thought it due to the proprietors that if any questions were asked, he ought himself to be prepared to make any statements which might be required to them (cheers). The difficulty of stating now what their intentions were in respect to April next, must bring to everybody's mind, as it did most forcibly to his own, the very inconvenient times at which their meetings were held; because he might be told, in these times of difficulty and uncertainty, that he was a bold man who said that in April he would give a dividend to a certain amount. But when they held their winter meetings they were accustomed to state what their intentions were, and if they had not done it upon the present occasion a false impression might have been spread abroad; but it was certainly a most inconvenient practice to say that four months beforehand they should state what their intentions might be (hear). He hoped that steps would be taken to alter the time of their meetings. If it were the pleasure of the proprietors to have two or only one meeting a-year, let the time be fixed at a period when they could be certain of the dividend, and when the directors could with certainty lay before the proprietors the sum which they could afford to give. Another reason was that the profit and loss accounts might show that the profits were less than was anticipated in the four months. But happily in this case they expected to make a very large sum, though they would not advise the payment of 20 per cent. dividend if they had not made profits in proportion, or if they had not earned the money, by allowing the directors to raise that part of their means to which he had already alluded. Mr. Henderson had very properly mooted the subject of the propriety of an alteration of the time of meeting. Really the present arrangement was so difficult to deal with that it was impossible at these meetings to come to a positive conclusion; but if they could have their meetings in May or March they could pay the dividend in April or October. This would be more satisfactory to the proprietors and to the court of directors (hear). And here he was led to consider another point. He did not think that without an absolute necessity the dividend should be diminished, unless a plain statement of the case were laid before the proprietary; therefore if in the month of March or April they could have all the accounts, they would then see what the dividend was likely to be. There were some other points connected with the colonies to which

he ought, perhaps, to refer, such as the floods on the Hunter River, which had done very serious damage, but which did not involve the property or interests of any persons connected with this bank; and they would sustain no loss in the colony from this circumstance. He had now told the reason why he was there that day, and if it should seem to any gentleman present that the board had acted unwisely he should be glad to give any explanation; but in the meantime he had to state that the intention of the directors was to pay in April next the same dividend as on the previous occasion (cheers).

Mr. Stone thought the question as to the alteration of the time of meeting should be left in the hands of the directors, in whom he, in common he believed with the rest of the proprietors, placed the most unbounded confidence.

The Chairman observed that this would involve a change in the deed of settlement, because they were required to have an annual meeting early in June. If, however, it would not be unsatisfactory to the proprietors, they could have one meeting annually in March, and the directors would turn their attention to that point, so that the change might come into operation next year.

A proprietor did not see why they should be limited to one meeting a year. Let them have meetings in March and September (hear, hear).

The Chairman thought that to call a meeting in August or September, when most of the directors were out of town, would be a bad plan.

The Rev. Mr. Lawe did not see the necessity of holding more than one meeting annually, in March or April, but the matter ought to be left to the discretion of the directors. As to their respected chairman, he regretted to hear of his intention not to occupy the chair again, for he had witnessed that gentleman's assiduity and excellent management equally in times of storm and in periods of calm. He was sure the honourable gentleman was most heartily and cordially regarded by every proprietor who had the honour of knowing him.

Mr. Hatchard thought they should have two meetings annually, the periods for which to be left to the discretion of the directors. In former times they had the increase of gold, and they bought gold at £3 5*s.* to £3 10*s.* per ounce, and then people doubted whether the metal was good, and their profits were reduced. But they would now have a more rapid communication with the colonies. They now had railways and electric telegraphs throughout the colonies, giving information of any altered circumstances in the commercial world; therefore, they had no right to expect adverse circumstances from that over-trading and excessive credits which ought never to have existed. He thought they might expect a prosperous course for some years to come. But if the meetings were limited to one a year they would have a long time to wait in the event of adverse circumstances arising.

The Chairman hoped that nothing he had said would produce an impression on the minds of those gentlemen who were present that he looked forward to adverse circumstances. (Hear.) He stated, or he had intended to state, that they must not look to a continuance of that enormous amount of profits which they had been making, and which they still continued to make—profits which, in former times, would have been thought miraculous. (Cheers.) Gold in itself would yield no profit except for the purposes of exchange; and, from the great falling off in the exchanges, they could not look to those enormous profits which they had before made. It must have escaped the mind of the hon. proprietor that they had now to contend against a vast amount of competition, and that every bank which set up

in the colonies must, more or less, diminish the business of other banks; therefore, they were banking under different circumstances from which they were when the gold fields were first opened. They were forced, to a certain extent, to follow what they did, however unwillingly.

A long conversation followed as to the time of meetings to be held in future, the result of which was that the matter was left entirely to the discretion of the directors.

The Chairman moved in the most handsome terms a resolution of thanks to the secretary and accountant, Messrs. Milliken and Waterston.

Mr. Henderson, in highly eulogistic terms, seconded the resolution, and begged to include therein the thanks of the meeting to the subordinate staff of the company.

The resolution was carried with the greatest enthusiasm.

Mr. Milliken, in a brief address, acknowledged the compliment.

Mr. Blandford moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was carried with cheers.

The Chairman briefly replied, and the meeting separated.

Communications.

To the Editor of the "Bankers' Magazine."

PROOF BY BANK HOLDING SECURITY.

Sir,—Your answer to the following questions would greatly oblige

Your most obedient servant,

A Bank Officer.

A. B. opens a current account at a bank and overdraws £1,000. The bank also discounts bills for him drawn on different parties, amounting in the whole to £3,000, holding the joint and several bond of C. D. & E. F. for £2,000, as security for the liabilities of A. B. generally. A. B. is supposed to fail and their bond enforced, leaving the bank still short of £2,000, against which they hold bills overdue and current to the amount of £3,000. Can the bank prove against the estate of A. B. for £2,000 only or have they a right to prove for the whole amount of bills lying dishonoured, should that be more than £2,000, and the dividend upon them be insufficient to cover the bank claim?

After the bank have had the dividend and are still short, will they be obliged to deduct it rateably from each bill before they enforce their claim against the acceptor?

[We think the bank can prove for the £2,000 only, and must in their proof set forth the securities they hold, and whatever is realized from the securities will have to be deducted from the proof. If by means of the bills the bank are paid in full and have a surplus left, probably, under the mercantile law amendment act, C. D. and E, F. would be entitled to it.

THE MONETARY CRISIS.

Sir,—I conceive that the present awful monetary and commercial crisis should call forth the opinions of every one capable of suggesting a remedy against a recurrence, with the view that, out of the ideas of the many, some effectual plan might happily be devised, to obviate or lessen the effects of mere panic; this therefore is my apology for now addressing you.

Among the many things that ought to occupy the attention of the legislature on this subject, is the "deposits" in banks, which have now assumed a gigantic size in proportion to the other commercial capital of the county. In Ireland there is something like £20,000,000; in Scotland, £30,000,000; and in England £150,000,000, making £200,000,000; and the tendency of the wealth of the country, is to run in that direction. This, in ordinary times, is all right, and Great Britain may be justly proud that such an enormous sum was placed by the non-commercial people at a minor rate in the hands of parties capable of investing it in the carrying on and developing the commercial and manufacturing resources of the country; and without which it could not have obtained its present grand pre-eminence. But the error is, that all this vast capital is liable to be called for in specie, *on demand*.

Some years ago the deposits held a relative position to the banking capital and the specie of the country, now they have grown out of all proportion. By your September number, I find that the deposits in the joint-stock banks in London are £43,000,000, being an increase of nearly £8,000,000 on the year, and I see nothing to hinder their increasing, so that twenty years hence those banks might hold £200,000,000. This I would be delighted to see, provided they were held on principles safe to the well being of the country.

The joint-stock banks had a rule originally, that ten days' notice should be given of the withdrawal of deposits; but from the competition that ensued, and the desire to be obliging to their customers, the rule became obsolete. Now had this rule remained in force, the stoppage of two banks in Scotland—which ought not to have been allowed—could not have taken place. The mad rush for gold would have been met with, "Your notice has been received, and you will be paid if you call again in ten days." Thus the banks would have time to prepare, the public excitement to cool, and the shareholders could have stepped forward to devise means to assist the banks through the panic. If bankers receive money on which they pay interest, that money must be so invested, that it cannot be returnable to the depositor *on demand*, in the event of a sudden or unexpected panic.

I would therefore make it compulsory on all banks to require notice of the withdrawal of deposits. In ordinary times it would be no inconvenience to the public, for almost every man knows a number of days previous that he will want his money; and in cases where the demand came sudden, or where he neglected to give notice, his banker could take his case into favourable consideration and make him advances, repaying himself with the deposit at the expiry of the notice; the safety to the bank, the customer, and the public only arises where the demand is occasioned by temporary excitement or false alarm.

I would prohibit banks from allowing any interest whatever on money lodged on current account repayable *on demand*, and this would naturally limit the amount to such as was immediately requisite for the wants of the public. I would next allow banks to take money on deposit, bearing interest repayable at ten days' notice, and also deposits at thirty days' notice, which would bear half per cent. higher rate than those at ten days; these rules to be posted in the office, giving each depositor his choice of terms. Longer notices of withdrawal to be matter of arrangement between the bank and their customer. Receipts should be given on which was written or printed the terms of the notice of withdrawal required. Those at ten days to be repayable for three, and those at thirty days for six after the expiry of the given time; afterwards—if the money is not lifted within that period—fresh notice must be given, and I would impose a penalty on

bankers breaking through or evading these rules. I would, however, make two exceptions. For the benefit of the poorer classes—particularly in country districts—I would allow all depositors of £30 or under to be repaid on demand. I would also allow banks when dealing with each other free to make such rules, as to interest or otherwise, as they may choose.

This plan may not be the best that could be devised for the metropolis, where facilities are to be had that do not exist elsewhere, but it would work well in the provinces and in Ireland and Scotland; and I have no doubt had it been in force now the millions of specie withdrawn from the Bank of England to meet the fears of the people of these kingdoms would have remained in the hands of the bank directors and saved them from the violation of their charter, and the country from the horrors of an aggravated panic.

This letter is much longer than I had intended, but before I close I would wish to remark that it is quite evident that the act of 1844, and the subsequent act of 1845, regulating the issue in Scotland and Ireland—however they may hamper the banks—cannot prevent or lessen the effects of panic, but with proper legislation with respect to deposits I should be sorry to see either of them repealed.

The £40,000,000 of notes in circulation and the balances required for the immediate use of the public are quite as large an amount of capital, in proportion to the usual stock of specie, as ought to be left payable in specie *on demand*.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

SAFETY VALVE.

ENDORSEMENT OF BILLS.

SIR,—No one can look upon the present storm that convulses our monetary world, without feeling that there exists somewhere a great want of improvement. May not the evil be tracked, as in numerous preceding cases, to previous speculation and extravagance, fostered and encouraged in a great measure by the facilities for obtaining accommodation of which that by means of fictitious bills is perhaps the most abused. Bills of exchange form by far the greatest proportion of our currency; they are in themselves a great boon to commerce, and ought to be protected from abuse. Would it not greatly conduce to this desirable result, if every endorser of a bill were required after his name to state his business and address? Such a rule, whilst preventing fictitious endorsements, would increase the facilities for ascertaining the quality of the bill. The speculator who was desirous of raising money could not put his name to a bill without its becoming apparent to all through whose hands the bill passed, that the money was required for speculative purposes, whilst it would, in all cases, better enable the discounter to judge whether the bill could be within an ordinary business transaction. Thus a bill endorsed "Mr. Leverett, Gentleman, Rugby," would not pass so readily, having the profession and address as without, since no deception could be used—a false profession or address would be at once discovered by a directory or inquiry.

In the recent case of Sadgrove and Ragg, where they employed their own clerks to endorse bills in their own and fictitious names, and then raised money upon them, had they been required to endorse with profession and address, the fraud would have been easily discovered, a false address being apparent on reference to a directory whilst the real one, "*Clerk to them at their own place of business*," would have entirely defeated their object.

No one should consider it sufficient in taking or discounting a bill, to depend upon the responsibility of one or even two parties, without knowing anything of the former endorsers, or the purposes for which the bill had been drawn; the whole ought to be at once intelligible, so that the party taking a bill may be able to ascertain the position of any or all of the endorsers at pleasure, without absolute dependence upon their customer; the parties, for instance, who first drew the bill, may have obtained a large fictitious credit, which will give way on the slightest pressure, and involve all the subsequent endorsers in ruin. The additional space and trouble required seem to be the sole objection to the above plan; but surely a little additional labour would be amply repaid if our market could be weeded of its worse than worthless paper, whilst the space occupied on the bill is not now of so much consequence as it would have been twenty years ago when bills served in many places all the purposes of bank notes, sometimes passing through thirty or forty hands before reaching the discounter's office; few bills now are so crowded with endorsements; or if required, draw the bill on a wider sheet of paper. We can hardly wonder at the present abuse, when every facility is thrown in the way for speculators and insolvent houses to help themselves *ad libitum* out of the pockets of their more honest neighbours: Surely, with the reckless trading daily brought to light, we require reform, in aid of which I beg to submit these few remarks to the attention of your readers.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

LELEX.

Notes of the Month.

BANKRUPTCY COURT COMPENSATIONS.—The following compensations are now annually payable under the "Bankruptcy Court Act of 1831"—viz., to the Rev. T. Thurlow, patentee of bankruptcy, £7,352; to ex-Commissioner C. T. Swanston, £200; to ex-Commissioner Turner, £200; and to W. Learmouth, the Lord Chancellor's messenger, £200; making a total of £7,952 annually. None of the above persons, except Learmouth, now hold office.

THE IRISH SAVINGS BANKS.—A meeting of the friends and supporters of the Cork Savings Bank was held on the 30th November, Mr. Beamish, M.P., presiding. The financial statement up to the 20th of November was read by Mr. Besnard, the secretary; and Mr. Craig, the manager of the Bank of Ireland, addressed the meeting, congratulating them upon the prosperous state of the institution, notwithstanding the prevailing money panic, as a proof of which he mentioned the fact, that while the amount due to the depositors last year was only £328,806 15*s.* 2*d.*, it was £330,463 2*s.* 3*d.* this year, showing an increase of deposits of £1,656 7*s.* 1*d.* There was in the hands of the Government £311,337 15*s.* 7*d.*, and lodged in the Bank of Ireland £20,195 7*s.* 1*d.*, making the total amount available £331,533 12*s.* 8*d.*, or £1,070 10*s.* 5*d.* over the amount due in principal and interest to depositors. New managers having been appointed, the meeting separated.

THE AMERICAN PANIC AS VIEWED IN ENGLAND.—The commercial advices by the "Arabia" yesterday made some of our worthy fellow citizens feel a little foolish. We had been waiting, with breathless anxiety, for the explosion of the bombshell we had sent over something like a month ago. We expected to hear very dreadful accounts of the damage it had done, the consternation it had created, and the fearful measures of retaliation to which it might incite the English people. The Bank of England was certainly to suspend; scores of houses con-

nected with the American trade were to disappear from the commercial world; and it was even feared that the indignant sons of John Bull might rush over in swarms, personally or by proxy, and demand payment of the money they had loaned us on our railway bonds. All this was to take place as soon as the news of our bank suspension should reach the English shore. That event took place in due time; but the direful results have not followed. In fact, John Bull does not seem in the least excited by this awful incident. The Bank of England did not suspend, Consols did not decline, and the imperturbable Britishers coolly proceeded to buy up our railroad stocks and bonds at the ridiculously low figure to which our ridiculous panic had reduced them. This may be a little annoying to our overweening vanity. It shows we are neither so important nor so wise as we had fancied ourselves. But it also shows that there is more intelligence and a more solid order of men in the London Stock Exchange than in our own. They are less excitable, act with greater deliberation, and have more sagacity, and possibly more principle, than the Bulls and Bears of Wall-street. On the receipt of the news of the suspension of specie payments by our banks, Consols fell one-fourth per cent., but recovered even that trifling decline during the day. With us it is no unusual circumstance for stocks to rise and fall 8 or 10 per cent. in the course of a morning.—*New York Times*, Nov. 14.

Our Australian Governors.—The salaries of the governors of the Australian colonies are as follows:—New South Wales, Sir William Denison, £7,000 Victoria, Sir Henry Barkly, £10,000; Tasmania, Sir H. E. Fox Young, £4,000; and a colonial allowance of £2,500 for contingent expenses; South Australia, Sir Richard Graves Macdonnell, £4,000; Western Australia, Mr. Arthur Edward Kennedy, £1,800; and New Zealand, Colonel Thomas Gore Brown, £3,500.

Finsbury Savings Bank.—From the accounts of this valuable institution, which have just been completed for the year, it appears that the deposits during that period amounted to £82,728, the repayments to £94,450, the interest to £4,860, and the capital to £269,124. As contrasted with the returns of the preceding twelve months, the deposits show an increase of £48 only, owing, no doubt, to the scarcity of labour and the high price of provisions; and the withdrawals to an increase also of £7,859.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following list includes the failures of the month, which, it will be perceived, are both numerous and important. Till the accounts of the various estates are presented it is useless to attempt to give details, either of liabilities or assets.

November.— Mr. A. Cruickshank, Glasgow, corn trade.
M. J. J. Wright, Glasgow, cotton broker.
Messrs. Hy. Hoffman and Co., German trade.
M. Joel, Dantzic, merchant.
Mr. T. Mellidew, London, commission agent.

December. — Messrs. Hermann, Cox and Co., London and Liverpool, cotton trade.
Messrs. Bischoff, Beere and Co., London, East India trade.
Messrs. Mendes, Da Costa and Co., West India trade.
Messrs. Keiser and Co., London, German trade.
Messrs. Barber, Rosenaur and Co., London, general merchants.
Messrs. Hirsch, Strother and Co., German trade.
Mr. G. C. Pim, Belfast, corn merchant.

December. — Mr. P.Magee, Liverpool, shipowner.
Messrs. Friedricksen, Clunie and Co., West Hartlepool, corn dealers.
Messrs. F. and A. Bovet, London, China trade.
Messrs. C. A. Jonas and Co., London, German trade.
Messrs. Sewells and Neck, London, North of Europe trade.
Messrs. Albert Pelly and Co., London, North of Europe trade.
Messrs. Krell and Cohn, London, commission agents.
Messrs. Hadland and Co., London, warehousemen.
Messrs. Lichtenstein and Co., London, German trade.
Messrs. D. Convella and Co., London, Greek trade.
Mr. W. R. Urain, Newcastle, iron and chain merchant.
Mr. Alexander Bertram, Newcastle, provision dealer.
Messrs. Ogden and Ferguson, Newcastle, merchants.
Messrs. Heine, Semon and Co., London, German bankers and exchange brokers.
Messrs. Weinholt, Wehner and Co., London, East India trade.
Messrs. T. H. Elmenhorst and Co., London, German trade.
Messrs. Montoya, Saenz and Co., London, Spanish American trade.
Messrs. Owen and Gutch, Worcester, bankers.
Mr. G. T. Ward, London, banker and agent to salesmen.
Messrs. Ralli and Apaleyra, Marseilles, corn factors.
Messrs. H. and M. Toldorph and Co., London, German trade.
Messrs. Rew, Prescott and Co., London, North of Europe trade.
Messrs. R. Willey and Co., London, silk mercers.
Messrs. S. C. Lister and Co., Halifax, worsted spinners.
Messrs. Saalfield Brothers, London, merchants.
Mr. Edward Smith, Bermondsey, woolstapler.
Messrs. Cheeseborough and Son, Bradford, woollen dealers.
Mr. W. Yewdall, Rawdon, near Leeds, wool dealers.
Messrs. Jonothan Hills and Sons, Dartford and Gravesend, bankers.
Mr. James Holmes, Kidderminster, carpet manufacturer.
Messrs. Powell and Sons, London, Manchester warehousemen.
Messrs. W. Dray and Co., London, agricultural implement makers.
Messrs. Klingenden Brothers, Liverpool, American trade.
Messrs. Charles Nicholson and Co., London, warehousemen.
Messrs. Lloyd Brothers, London, wholesale stationers and exporters.
Mr. W. Reid, Edinburgh, wholesale grocer.
Mr. W. C. Haigh, Bradford, woollen trade.
Messrs. Hans Marcher and Co., Hull, merchants.
Messrs. Stevenson, Viemehren and Scott, Newcastle, merchants.
Messrs. Greenslade and Co., Bristol, corn trade.

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

Nov. 26.—Announcement of the suspension of Mr. A. Cruickshank, of Bridge-end Corn Mills, Glasgow, with about £8,000 liabilities.

26.—Failure of Mr. J. J. Wright, of Glasgow, cotton broker.

30.—Suspension of Messrs. Henry Hoffman and Co., engaged in the Switzerland and California trade.

30.—Stoppage of M. Joel, of Dantzic, with liabilities amounting to between £200,000 and £300,000.

30.—Failure of Mr. T. Mellidew, commission agent; liabilities, £26,000.

Dec. 1.—Suspension of Messrs. Hermann, Cox, and Co., London and Liverpool, in the cotton trade; liabilities, £60,000.

1.—Failure of Messrs. Bischoff, Beer, and Co., East India merchants, with liabilities to £30,000.

2.—Suspension of Messrs. Mendes, Da Costa, and Co., West India merchants, with liabilities extending to about £350,000.

2.—Stoppage of Messrs. Keiser and Co., German merchants; liabilities, £50,000.

3.—Parliament opened, by a speech delivered by the Queen in person.

3.—Suspension of Messrs. Barber, Rosenauer, and Co., merchants, chiefly engaged in the German trade.

3.—Failure of Messrs. Hirsch, Strother, and Co., German marchants.

3.—Failure of Mr. G. C. Pim, corn merchant, Belfast.

3.—Stoppage of Mr. P. Magee (Magee and Corcoran), ship owner, Liverpool.

3.—Suspension of Messrs. Friedricksen, Clunie, and Co., in the corn trade, West Hartlepool.

3.—Bill of Indemnity, relative to the temporary suspension of the Bank Charter, introduced into the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

3.—Suspension of Messrs. F. and A. Bovet, of London, engaged in the China trade.

3.—Failure of Messrs. C. A. Jonas and Co., general merchants; liabilities, about £100,000.

5.—Suspension of Messrs. Sewells and Neck, engaged in the trade with Norway.

6.—The Directors of the Bank of France reduce their rate of discount 1 per cent., viz., to 6 per cent. for 30 days' bills; 7 per cent. for 60 days' bills; and 8 per cent. on bills of 90 days.

7.—Failure of Messrs. Albert Pelly and Co., in the Norwegian trade.

7.—Suspension announced of Messrs. Krell and Cohn, in the German trade.

8.—Stoppage of Messrs. Hadland and Co., Manchester warehousemen, with liabilities amounting to £30,000.

8.—Suspension of Messrs. Lichtenstein and Co., merchants; liabilities, £30,000.

8.—Failure of Messrs. D. Couvella and Co., Greek merchants.

8.—Failure of Mr. W. R. Urain, iron and chain merchant, Newcastle.

8.—Failure of Mr. Alexander Bertram, provision dealer, Newcastle.

8.—Failure of Messrs. Agdon and Ferguson, of Newcastle.

11.—Suspension of Messrs. Heine, Semon, and Co., in the German trade, with liabilities of £700,000.

11.—Suspension of Messrs. Weinholt, Wehner, and Co., for £300,000. German trade.

11.—Failure of Messrs. T. H. Elmenhorst and Co., in the German trade.

11.—Failure of Messrs. Montoya, Sayenz, and Co., in the Spanish American trade.

11.—Stoppage of the Worcester Bank of Messrs. Farley, Lavender, and Co., the surviving partners being Messrs. Owen and Gutch.

11.—Stoppage of Mr. G. T. Ward, of Smithfield, banker, and agent to salesmen.

12.—The Indemnity (Bank) Bill received the Royal assent.

12.—The Committee of the House of Commons, on the Bank Charter Act, re-appointed.

13.—Suspension of Messrs. Ralli and Apaleyra, of Marseilles, in the corn trade; liabilities, £280,000.

13.—Failure of Messrs. H. and M. Toldorph and Co., of London, Swedish merchants.

14.—Suspension of Messrs. Rew, Prescott, and Co., North of Europe trade; liabilities, £150,000.

14.—Failure of Messrs. Richard Willey and Co., silk mercers.

14.—Suspension of Messrs. S. C. Lister and Co., Halifax, worsted spinners.

15.—Stoppage of Messrs. Saalfield, Brothers, of London, Leeds, and Hamburg; liabilities, £200,000.

16.—Failure of Mr. Edward Smith, of Bermondsey, wool stapler.

16.—Suspension of Messrs. Cheeseborough and Son, of Bradford, woollen dealers.

16.—Suspension of Mr. W. Yewdall, of Rawdon, near Leeds, operator in woods.

17.—Stoppage of the Dartford and Gravesend Bank, of Messrs. Jonathan Hills and Sons; liabilities, about £20.000.

17.—Failure of Mr. James Holmes, carpet manufacturer; liabilities, £35,000.

17.—The Directors of the Bank of France reduce their rate of discount to 6 per cent. for all descriptions of bills.

17.—The rate of discount at Hamburg reduced to between 7 and 9 per cent.

18.—Suspension of Messrs. Powell and Sons, Manchester warehousemen; liabilities, £60,000.

19.—Bills returned of Messrs. Wm. Dray and Co., engineers and agricultural implement makers; liabilities, about £30,000.

19.—At Hamburg the rate of discount further receded to between 5 and 6 per cent.

21.—Failure of Messrs. Klingenden Brothers, merchants, Liverpool.

22.—Suspension of Messrs. Charles Nicholson and Co., warehousemen; liabilities, £66,000.

22.—Failure of Messrs. Lloyd Brothers, picture dealers, and exporters to the United States.

22.—Failure of Mr. W. Reid, of Edinburgh, wholesale grocer; liabilities, £30,000.

24.—The Directors of the Bank of England, at their weekly Board meeting, reduce the rate of discount from 10 to 8 per cent.

24.—Failure of Mr. W. C. Haigh, of Bradford, in the woollen trade.

24.—Suspension of Messrs. Hans Marcher, and Co., of Hull, Dutch merchants.

24.—Stoppage of Messrs. Stevenson, Viehmehren, and Scott, merchants, of Newcastle.

29.—The Bank of France reduce the rate of discount to 5 per cent.

The failures at Hamburg, Stettin, &c., have been very numerous; but the annexed list contains the names of the most eminent firms that have been compelled to suspend:

Messrs. Levetz and Koch, Hamburg.
Messrs. Campe and Meyer, Hamburg.
Messrs. G. H. Lutze and Co., Hamburg.
Mr. C. A. Staelin, Hamburg.
Mr. F. O. Schubach, Hamburg.
Mr. H. Rucker, Hamburg.
Mr. C. Godett, Hamburg.
Mr. C. J. Johns Sohm, Hamburg.
Mr. C. Von Leccen, banker, Hamburg.
Mr. Remarius Nachfolger, insurance broker, Hamburg.
Messrs. Bussee and Halshe, Swedish bankers, Hamburg.
Messrs. G. Kruhers and Co., merchants, Hamburg.
Messrs. Jehnke, money changers, Hamburg.
Messrs. Cordes and Growemeyer, corn merchants, Hamburg.
Messrs. Ullberg and Cramer, Swedish agents, Hamburg.
Messrs. T. F. Kalckmann and Co., insurance agents, Hamburg.
Messrs. Wagener and Evet, Hamburg.
Messrs. Bach and Raspe, corn trade, Hamburg.
Messrs. T. B. Christie and Co., Hamburg.
Messrs. Lomer and Uhde, merchants, Hamburg.
Messrs. Barbech and Wall, bankers, Altona.
Mr. C. T. H. Eschells, banker, Altona.
Messrs. Kruher and Von Oven, exporters, Altona.

Mr. Conrad Warnecke, Hamburg.
Messrs. Johns and Co., Stockholm.
Mr. John Bergen, Stockholm.
Messrs. Streemberg and Sons, Stockholm.
Messrs. Watty and Co., bankers and discounters, Hamburg.
Mr. B. Roosen, jun., merchant, Hamburg.
Messrs. Muller and Kessler, Hamburg.
Mr. J. Muller, Hamburg.
Mr. G. Ruben, Hamburg.
Messrs. Thiel and Co., Hamburg.
Messrs. Heisch, Moses, and Co., Stettin.
Mr. D. Arnow, Altona.
Mr. F. C. Bahre, Altona.
Messrs. Barbeck and Wall, Altona.
Messrs. Barwasser and Co., Hamburg.
Messrs. Blass and Schomberg, Hamburg.
Messrs. Bons and Richter, Hamburg.
Messrs. Bronstedt and Co., Hamburg.
Messrs. Custer, Bremswig, and Co., Hamburg.
Messrs. August Feddersen and Co., Hamburg.
Mr. John Gower, Hamburg.
Mr. Edward Grin, Hamburg.
Mr. J. F. Gross, Hamburg.
Messrs. Hansen and Johansen, Hamburg.
Messrs. Levi Herz and Son, Hamburg.
Mr. J. F. Hinck, Hamburg.
Mr. J. M. St. Hoffmann, Hamburg.
Messrs. Huber and Haupt, Hamburg.
Messrs. Hugher, Stobart, and Co., Hamburg.
Messrs. Hulse and Co., Hamburg.
Messrs. J. C. Jacoby and Son, Hamburg.
Mr. G. Krafft, Hamburg.
Mr. J. P. Langmach, Hamburg.
Messrs. Von Leeson and Co., Hamburg.
Messrs. J. Lomer and Co., Hamburg.
Messrs. Lorent, Ende, and Co., Hamburg.
Mr. P. A. Millberg, Hamburg.
Messrs. H. Ottenstrom and Co., Hamburg.
Messrs. J. and W. Peters, Hamburg.
Mr. E. F. Pinckernelle, Hamburg.
Messrs. Prale and Wubbe, Hamburg.
Mr. W. Ree, Hamburg.
Mr. Raimarns Nachfolger, Hamburg.
Mr. J. J. Riemenschneider, Hamburg.
Messrs. Schmidt and Son, Hamburg.
Mr. Th. Schmidt, Hamburg.
Mr. Anton Schroeder, Hamburg.
Messrs. C. M. Schroeder and Co., Hamburg.
Mr. J. C. Schultze, Hamburg.
Mr. W. Seitz, Hamburg.
Messrs. Sieveking and Co., Hamburg.
Mr. J. B. Spengel, Hamburg.
Mr. L. Steenfadt, Hamburg.
Messrs. Thiel and Co., Hamburg.
Messrs. Vogt and Schmidt, Hamburg.
Mr. J. C. Wedekind, Altona.
Messrs. Weissflog and Cordes, Hamburg.
Mr. Wettern Manke Nachfolger, Hamburg
Messrs. Winckler and Nagel, Hamburg.
Messrs. Winterhoff and Piper, Hamburg.

Messrs. Vitte and Kammel, Hamburg.
Messrs. Zahn and Vivie, Hamburg.

From America, the only failures reported during the month were:

Messrs. Thomas and Martin, Philadelphia.
The Central Bank of Fredericton.
Messrs. Sather and Church, San Francisco.
Messrs. Fiske, Sather, and Church, Sacramento.
Messrs. Crocker, Sturgess, and Goodall, Boston.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1857.

During the last month of the year operations are principally confined to the arrangement and adjustment of accounts, but the progress of the crisis and the numerous failures which have taken place have, for the instant, engrossed attention and caused anxiety to be manifested to trace the results of the present distress. It was feared early in the month that the pressure might be prolonged through the continuance of mercantile disasters, and the disinclination of the banks to afford accommodation, especially as the appearance of the government letter did not immediately produce the desired relief. Subsequently the influx of specie with the more favourable advices from America and Hamburg created greater confidence, and a partial recovery was then apparent. The Bank of France having twice reduced the rate of discount till at length it is six per cent. for all classes of mercantile paper (with the prospect of being eventually down to five per cent.,) the public appeared induced to believe that the favourable reaction had set in, and this has since been confirmed by the Bank of England reducing the rate from ten to eight per cent. The large arrivals of Australian and American gold, with remittances from Turkey, Russia, &c., have rapidly augmented the stock of bullion, and the reserve of notes having reached a satisfactory position, the over issue of £2,000,000 has been repaid to the proper department. The crisis may, therefore, now be said to have terminated, and the opinion is entertained that with the restrictions which will necessarily be placed upon business, the accumulation of capital will be more rapid than ever. The reduction of the rate of discount by the Bank of England which took place upon the 24th, will, it is presumed, be followed by additional alterations on the favourable side, and some are sanguine enough to predict that in the course of the next six or seven weeks five or six per cent. will be the extreme quotation. Although the failures of the month have included a number of important mercantile establishments, the extent of over trading is fully developed by the nature of the balance-sheets exhibited, and notwithstanding dividends are, in many cases, better than was anticipated, still the pernicious effects of late operations have been made clearly visible.

The panic feeling which pervaded the English stock market caused business at the close of November and the beginning of December, and sales produced a further steady decline. When, however, money became easier, and a report was circulated that the Bank would shortly be enabled to reduce the rate, great firmness was apparent, and a steady rise has since occurred of about 2½ per cent., at which point quotations are now supported. Exchequer bills have fluctuated between 5 discount and 2 prem., and may be quoted at this moment par. Bank and India stocks are firmer

with a greater amount of business, and affairs in this department appear altogether better.

In foreign stock there has been increased activity, and the speculators have purchased freely for the rise. The improvement has been most apparent in Turkish, Mexican and Russian, each of which have recovered 2 to 3 per cent. although the operations have been of rather a mixed character. The impression appears to be that a further advance will take place if the Bank make an additional reduction in the rate, which is not considered improbable, looking at the general prospects of the money market.

Railway shares have been more extensively operated in, and notwithstanding the items of traffic show unfavourable results, purchasers of the various descriptions have supported prices. The recovery on the average has been from 4 to 5 per cent. with a satisfactory market, and the dealers seemed inclined to consider that quotations may yet go higher. An active speculation has taken place in the scrip of the new Indian Railways, and those which are likely to obtain a guarantee stand quoted at a respectable premium. French and Belgian shares have also improved, though the purchases have not been extensive.

The following are the fluctuations in the English and Foreign Stocks, and Railway Shares, during the month just concluded :—

	Price on Nov. 30.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Dec. 28th.
English Funds.				
Consols	91⅜-91½	94⅛ ex.d.	90⅞	91½ ex.d
Exchequer bills	4*s.* d.-2*s.* p.	2*s.* pm.	5*s.* dis.	1*s.* dis. 2*s.* pm.
Foreign Stocks.				
Brazilian	—	99¼	95	98¼
Buenos Ayres	84	96	84	92
Chilian	102	102½	101	101
Dutch, 2½ per cent.	62⅞	65	62½	64½
Mexican	18⅜	20½	18½	20
Peruvian, 4½ per cent.	76⅜	77	75	76
Russian	105¼	108	103	107½
Spanish	—	42	40⅛	41½
Turkish, 6 per cent.	91⅜	97⅞	91	97½
Ditto, 4 per cent.	99½	102	98⅜	101⅞
Railway Shares.				
Brighton	104¼	106½	102	106
Caledonian	77⅜	84	76	84
Eastern Counties	55¼	59	54⅜	58½
Great Northern	92	98 ex.d.	91½	98 ex.d.
Great Western	51⅜	55	49⅜	54½
Lancashire and Yorkshire... ...	91⅞	94⅜	90⅛	94
London and North Western ...	95½	97½	93⅛	96⅜
Midland	83¾	89½	83	89⅛
North Staffordshire	13½	14	12⅞	14
South Eastern	63½	69⅜	62⅜	69⅜
South Western	88½	95½	87⅜	94½
York, Newcastle, and Berwick ...	92⅞	96½	92	96
York and North Midland	81½	84½	80½	83½
East Indian...	107½	110⅜	106	110
Northern of France	35⅜	38	35	38

THE GRAIN TRADE.

THE fine open season has hitherto proved extremely beneficial to the early-sown wheats, and throughout the country the crops are looking well; frost would, however, now prove advantageous, and prevent the wheat from getting "proud." Grain of all descriptions has been brought forward pretty freely at all the markets throughout the country, and prices generally have ruled steady, with, if anything, rather a downward tendency.

The *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been:—

Week ending 1857.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
Nov. 28	76,725	... 49 8	... 52 5	... 1 0	... 64 6
Dec. 5	84,923	... 48 3	... 51 3	... 1 0	... 63 7
„ 12	100,416	... 49 5	... 50 6	... 1 0	... 62 8
„ 19	101,379	... 49 3	... 49 11	... 1 0	... 61 10

The importations since the harvest of 1857 have been:—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total Qrs.
Eighteen weeks ended 18th Nov. ...	1,287,212	1,543,839	2,831,051
Four weeks ended 16th December ...	439,971	278,611	718,582
	1,727,183	1,822,450	3,549,633

And the *weekly averages* have been:—

Eighteen weeks ended 18th Nov. ...	71,000	86,000	157,000
Four weeks ended 16th December ...	110,000	69,000	179,000
	More 39,000	Less 17,000	More 22,000

THE STATE OF TRADE.

GREAT depression has prevailed in the manufacturing districts, and prices for the various descriptions of goods have ruled at a severe depreciation. The constant succession of failures, and the necessity that has existed to curtail production, indicate the discouraging position of business.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Through pressure upon space some reviews and other articles temporarily stand over. These include a further paper on the gold movement in France, and an interesting letter on the currency question. Correspondents will please remember that communications, to ensure punctual attention, must be forwarded by the 22nd of the month.

A SUBSCRIBER.—Your wishes shall be attended to.

SENEX.—The list published regularly every month furnishes the required information.

R. S. (Taunton.)—We have sent the answer privately.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE;

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

FEBRUARY, 1858.

THE JOINT-STOCK BANKING INTEREST.

MAKING due allowances for the extraordinary circumstances which characterised the last six months of 1857 in the commercial and monetary world, the accounts rendered by the London joint-stock banks of their operations during the half-year ending 31st December are in the highest degree satisfactory. Not that the amount of business done has been greater, the net profits more, or the losses less, than within any previous corresponding period; but, what is, after all, of far greater importance both to the shareholders and to the public, the reports produced and the explanations given at the half-yearly meetings just concluded afford ample evidence that the managers of those institutions understand the true principles of banking, and have the courage to follow them out. They show that while on the one hand they are anxious to extend the operations of the institutions over which they preside, and to enhance the profits of their respective proprietories, by affording the largest amount of banking accommodation to their customers and the public that mercantile requirements can legitimately demand, they possess firmness enough to resist the temptation to which persons so situated are, more especially in periods of difficulty, when money is scarce and dear, inevitably exposed, and to confine their operations within the limits of prudence and safety.

In the course of the brief ante-Christmas session, when Parliament was called together to sanction the violation of the Bank Charter Act which, under the authority of the Government letter had taken place, and to take cognizance of the causes of the financial crisis, which was then only beginning to subside, it was charged against the joint-stock banks, by persons of some authority, that to their action much of the difficulty the country still laboured under was attributable. It was urged that the system upon which these institutions were

based was unsound, and that, apart from their note issues, which, however open to objection, applies, not to the London, but only to certain of the provincial banks, their practice of receiving deposits at interest was foreign to the proper business of banking, and tended to an undue expansion of credit, and the encouragement of unsound trade and unwise speculation. It was argued that to allow interest on deposits and money at call, necessarily implied loaning out of that money at a much higher rate, and that that could only be done on low class bills and questionable securities; and though it was not possitively asserted within the walls of Parliament, it was confidently stated out of doors, that some of the largest of these institutions had, in order to maintain the high profits they were in the habit of dividing, preserved so small a margin between the amount entrusted to their safe keeping, and the sums so advanced by them on securities, which, if not absolutely bad, could not be realised without delay, and then, probably, at a considerable loss, that in the event of a run of more than ordinary severity, they would be compelled to close their doors. To avert such a calamity, it was added that application had been made for assistance from without, and that the knowledge of this circumstance and the great aggravation of the evil which would be occasioned by the failure of any one of our large metropolitan banking establishments, mainly influenced the Government in issuing the letter of the 11th November.

How far these statements are borne out by the facts we are now in a position to judge. The half-yearly meetings of all the London joint-stock banks—with one exception, the London and County, whose meeting is called for the 4th of this month—have been held. Their reports have been published, and the expositions which they afford not only of their financial condition, but of the manner in which they conduct their business are generally such as must confirm them in the confidence of their own shareholders and the public, upon whom they have conferred important advantages, the withdrawal of which would now be felt as a serious inconvenience. We find that in almost every case the precautions taken by the directors were sufficient to place them in a state of security, come what might; and that while the pressure was at its height they held in hand and in the Bank of England, at call, cash and Government securities immediately convertible at the market value ample means for meeting any emergency that might arise.

Beginning with the London and Westminster, which as the first established and the extent of its business stands at the head of the list, a more lucid, complete, and in every way gratifying

statement of careful, prudent, and at the same time liberal and business like management than that which the report of the directors presented to the meeting held at the bank on the 20th ultimo, combined with the supplemental explanations contained in Mr. Alderman Salomon's speech conveys, has rarely been brought under our notice. Having regard to the wide extent of their transactions and the enormous aggregate of their liabilities, it is impossible that their assets could be more safely placed or that any bank could have been in a better situation to meet a "run" than they were during the whole period of the crisis. Their gross liabilities to customers in current accounts, deposits, and circular notes are put down at £13,889,000, and to answer these they had on the day on which the accounts were made up —cash in hand, £2,226,441; Government securities and India bonds, convertible on the instant at the market value at which they are credited, £2,192,982; and other securities, including bills discounted, loans to customers, £10,700,772; together, £15,120,196 13*s.* 10*d.* Under the head of "other securities" are included the £500,000 recently advanced to the East India Company at 6 per cent.; £1,389,815 short loans to brokers on the pledges of Government stock; £750,000 guaranteed railway shares and debentures; £4,751,368 discounts and loans to customers; £2,194,199 short bills, and £1,115,883 bills of exchange on call. It is difficult to conceive how assets of such magnitude could be better placed; that is, supposing the heavy item of discounts and loans to customers, and which represents the ordinary banking accommodation afforded by the concern, is guaranteed by parties of sufficient stability. Of the policy of the advance to the East India Company there can be but one opinion. It was made at a period of dear money, and at the then rate, or nearly so; and at that high rate remains permanent. However low money may fall in the market, the directors may fairly congratulate themselves and their proprietors on having taken advantage of difficult times to make an investment which must far more than compensate them for any temporary loss they may have suffered in consequence of the panic. But, satisfactory as is this statement, the supplemental explanation volunteered by the chairman of the position of the bank at the height of the crisis will to many minds become more so, because it shows that, so far at least as this institution is concerned, the insinuation that had a "run" been made upon it and external aid had not been forthcoming it must have succumbed, does not apply. Mr. Salomons informs us that on the 11th of November, the day on which the Government letter was sent to the Bank, the directors of the London and Westminster had in their own

hands and at the Bank of England £2,010,000 in cash, £2,000,000 of Government stock and other resources convertible, into money within three or four days, had the necessity for it arisen, amounting together to £11,000,000. In the explanation of the profit and loss account the estimate of the directors for bad and doubtful debts would seem at first sight to be understated; but when the chairman gives his assurance that it is, on the contrary, very largely over stated, the wonder is that any amount of prudential management should be sufficiently effective to limit, in a period of severe pressure and extensive failure, the losses of an establishment which has out upon discount £7,000,000 or £8,000,000 of money to £10,000, the sum which the board has put down, much less to the £1,500 which the chairman believes will cover them. Supposing that the result justifies his view, there will be, after payment of the 3 per cent. dividend, and the 4 per cent. bonus declared for the last half-year, a balance of more that 1 per cent. to add to the profits of the current half-year.

None of the other banks have given to their shareholders the same detail of information as the London and Westminster, and it is to be regretted; for, taking their general characteristic to be soundness, there can be no doubt that they would have risen in public confidence had they followed the example of that institution, and published to the world the nature of the securities in which the funds intrusted to their safe keeping were invested, together with some explanation of the position in which they stood, not merely at the end of the year, when all apprehension of a run had subsided, but during those few weeks when such a contingency appeared imminent. The London Joint-Stock, which stands second in rotation in point of date and extent of business, but as regards the rate of profit divided holds the first place, return for the half-year a net balance, after putting aside £19,000 to meet losses, of £83,566 9*s*., out of which they pay a dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 10*s*. per share on the £10 paid up, or at the rate of 22½ per cent. together, the two previous divisions having been at the rate of 25¼ per cent. per annum. Their liabilities to customers are £10,737,580, to meet which they have a fraction below £1,200,000 in Government securities and India bonds and other securities, loans, bills, and cash, to the extent of £10,431,664. Here the paid-up capital is £600,000, but the somewhat large proportion to which the business done bears to the shareholders' capital, as compared with the London and Westminster, where the capital paid-up is a million, is scarcely sufficient to account for the difference of

dividend, and we must look for it in the practice which appears to be pursued by this bank, of preserving a much smaller margin than its rival of cash and securities immediately convertible into cash, to meet sudden emergencies. They have, however, a reserve fund of upwards of £187,000, or nearly one-third of their paid-up capital, which, with the ample balance shown in favour of the total assets as against the total liabilities, will be sufficient to satisfy both shareholders and customers that the London Joint-Stock is fully entitled to the high position it holds. The proposal of the directors to increase the reserve, by adding £16,000 to it, out of the half-year's profits, met with some opposition; but seeing the extent of the losses which the bank has experienced during the crisis, the course adopted by directors and confirmed by the meeting was politic, and will tend to the ultimate advantage of the proprietors.

Upon a capital of £600,000 the Union Bank of London returns a profit of £50,474 for the six months, out of which they pay 7½ per cent., carrying over £5,474 to the credit of the current half-year. Their total liabilities to customers are £9,645,913, and to meet them they have £1,893,670 of cash, £1,211,945 Government and other readily convertible securities, £7,110,072 of loans and bills discounted, and a reserve fund of £150,000. The Commercial Bank of London, whose transactions are more limited than the others, has a paid-up capital of £300,000, and the money in their hands on deposit and current accounts is £821,626. With so comparatively narrow a field of operations their profits are necessarily smaller than those of their great competitors. They pay at the rate of 6 per cent. for the past half-year, and maintain a reserve equal to 25 per cent. on the paid capital, and their balance of cash in hand and investments in Government securities amount to £290,262, while their advances on stock, bills discounted, and loans stand at £918,293. The City Bank and the Bank of London, which are the youngest of the fraternity, appear to be pursuing a career which promises to be as successful in the end as any of the others. The current and deposit accounts of the former already reach £1,388,933, but they have £1,383,906 out in discounts and loans, the capital paid up being £300,000, and the reserve, which is in course of formation, £28,000. The dividend paid by this bank for the past half-year is at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. The Bank of London pays the same rate of dividend, their paid-up capital being also £300,000, and their deposits and current accounts in their hands belonging to customers, £1,114,133. This establishment returns its cash in hand and the amount out on loan together at £990,635, and its

Government and other securities at £371,291. There is but one joint-stock bank that pays no dividend, the Unity, whose expenses seem destined for some time to come to swallow up the whole of the profits which its confined business produces.

As a whole, taking the peculiar circumstances of the times into account, the results of the last half-year's working of the metropolitan joint-stock banking interest must be regarded as gratifying. It has passed through a season of great difficulty unscathed, and has come out of the ordeal with increased strength. The joint-stock banks of London have been tested, and have proved to be not only amongst the most useful, but also amongst the safest, of our banking establishments, and the public, as well as the bank shareholders, will unite with the chairman of the London and Westminster Bank in the wish that the result of the forthcoming investigation by the House of Commons will not be to interfere with the management of institutions which have grown up in the rude times of adversity, and, profiting by experience, never receiving favours from the legislature or assistance from the great monetary establishments previously existing, have conferred great benefits upon the mercantile community.

THE STATE OF TRADING MORALITY.

Of all the various elements which, operating in combination, have tended to the expansion of our trade and the permanence of our commercial prosperity, the world-wide confidence which the honourable conduct of our merchants has ever inspired, must indisputably rank amongst the most potent. The activity of mind, the indomitable spirit of adventure and enterprise, the quick perception, ready and sound judgment, which, as a rule, belong to the people of these islands, have enabled them from time to time to discover and create commercial opportunities, and to make the most of them; but it is the high character which the British merchant has everywhere earned for himself for probity, fair dealing, and liberality, which has made these opportunities fructify into a rich and permanent harvest of individual and national wealth. Abroad this high and enviable reputation has been for centuries enjoyed by the mercantile community of this country, while at home the title of "merchant prince" has, for time immemorial, been the distinguishing appellation for such of our mercantile community as, by the long and successful exercise of prudent industry, rise to eminence and

affluence; and by their liberal justice, veracity, and uprightness of conduct in all the relations of life won that reverence and respect, and attained to that moral dignity which places them, in the estimation of their fellow-men, on a level with princes.

The importance of maintaining that high character for commercial morality, which we thus possess, and from which we have derived such solid advantages is beyond dispute. But it must not be forgotten that national character depends upon individual character, and that any lowering of the standard of the latter, any laxity of moral principle pervading any considerable portion of our commercial community, must necessarily in the end react upon the former, and operate as the most serious national calamity that could, perhaps, occur.

Without going so far as to assert that the high mercantile character of the nation is in immediate danger, it is difficult to regard those questionable transactions which have of late become somewhat painfully frequent in trading circles, entirely free from feelings of apprehension, or to contemplate without alarm what may be the ulterior consequences if the unwholesome virus be permitted to go on extending its baneful influence unchecked and unhindered. Whether in consequence of our more intimate and largely increasing relations with the United States, may be matter of speculation, but unhappily the fact is beyond question that "smartness" and "cleverness" are qualifications which with many persons engaged in trading operations go far in the present day to compensate for the absence of integrity and truth, and in some instances command the preference. Men, or at least some of them, for God forbid that it should be a general failing, seem to act upon the principle that in all trading transactions they are justified in making the best bargain they can for themselves without reference to the rights of other parties, and that if by concealment, false representations, or deception of any kind, one man can overreach another in a bargain or business arrangement, he is perfectly justified in doing so. Some there are, who, in their intercourse with their own clerks, dependents, and pupils, do not hesitate to bring this species of discreditable sharp practice into play, thus spreading and extending the evil in the future to an incalculable extent. Their rule is to sail as close to the wind as possible, and provided they keep within the law, the pettiest meanness and the most gigantic frauds come alike indifferent to them. Take the majority of the most prominent cases of bankruptcy that have taken place within the last two or three years. What do they exhibit but a system of reckless trading without means, of wild speculation based upon fictitious credit, and, in not a few instances, of

criminal fraud? In a perfectly healthy state of commercial morals persons once involved in transactions of this description would be avoided and shunned, their credit would be gone for ever, and they must either transfer their dishonest propensities to a more congenial soil, or be content to carry on a life of honest industry in a lower sphere. But as it is beyond some temporary inconvenience, it is rarely (except when the fraud is so glaring that the criminal law comes into operation) that any actual punishment awaits them. Any change in the bankrupt law which should add to their severity in the case of the honest trader would be deservedly unpopular; but it might nevertheless be a subject worth consideration, whether in cases where offences against the laws of legitimate trading are proved, any certificate should be granted until all the creditors under the bankruptcy were paid in full.

It might also, perhaps, be an interesting, though as regards the application of a remedy, not a profitable subject for inquiry, what have been the causes, remote or immediate, of this seeming dereliction of commercial principle, or this retrocession from the standard of mercantile morality to which we have been accustomed to look up? Possibly, were such an investigation to take place, it might be proved that over trading—brought about by an unwise, though perhaps in these days of excessive competition, an inevitable extension of credit facilities—may have been one of the causes. The vast multiplication of wealth which has been accumulating for several years past, and despite every obstacle will continue to accumulate, and which has engendered a spirit of speculation almost unprecedented in the history of the country, must necessarily have had much to do with it. A superabundance of money, far beyond the capabilities of ordinary trade or the usual channels of investment to absorb, naturally sought employment in new directions. The three or three and a quarter per cent. offered by the public funds, and which competition at one time threatened considerably to reduce by raising the price, was insufficient to satisfy the reasonable expectations of the capitalist. Accordingly new fields of enterprise were sought out—schemes were projected, many of them of great public utility, and which if not fully realising the sanguine expectations—though some of them, as for instance, the leading joint-stock banks, have gone far beyond them—have sooner or later yielded a fair return upon the funds invested in them. As one of the properties of success is to beget imitation, the development of these projects encouraged others, and the accumulations of unemployed capital continuing and being increased by the very means which it was at first

supposed would for several years to come demand all the surplus resources of the country, those who had large sums lying idle, or producing from two to three per cent. only—which was the Bank rate during the earlier years of the present half century, were ready to embrace speculation, to extend credits, or to fall into any plan that afforded a reasonable promise of high interest. The profession of the projector then became one of importance, and the humble trader or humbler clerk of yesterday, suddenly found himself, by the aid of credit and home manufactured paper money, elevated to a footing of equality with some of the oldest and most opulent mercantile houses in the City. Mere speculators, men who were rich and poor on alternate days, as their operations were successful or otherwise, and for whom the Bankrupt Court in the distance had no terrors, were not only tolerated, but courted, and there are instances where two or three more than ordinary lucky ventures in rapid succession, have been rewarded with the favour of royalty, and those honours of rank which are usually reserved for the highest deeds of public patriotism.

Another growing evil of the present day is the homage paid to appearances. In all ranks of society, except perhaps the very highest, there is a tendency to exaggerate. For when mammon worship so generally prevails, is it in any way surprising that men should be found who endeavour to make the outward show of wealth pass current for its actual possession? In trade, the old fashioned establishments, whose proprietors were content to carry on, without ostentation, a snug and profitable business, are fast disappearing. The competition of what are termed "great houses," is either swallowing them up or changing their character. Everything must be done upon a large scale, and when a firm commences operations now-a-days, instead of fixing the establishment upon the scale of the probable business, it at once assumes the proportions of a house of the highest magnitude, with all the appliances of clerks and offices equal to a trade which, in the ordinary course of things, it would take twenty years to secure. The fashion now is to begin where formerly we left off. It is supposed that the first step towards success in mercantile affairs, is to commence by displaying all the outward signs of boundless pecuniary resources. There must be not only all the appliances of business upon an exaggerated and needlessly expensive scale, but the appearances of a private fortune ample enough to make its possessors entirely independent of trade, and it is by no means an unfrequent occurrence to find parties who have not a balance of their own money at their bankers sufficient to meet the current week's expences of an ordinary counting house,

located in a mansion in Belgravia or Tyburnia, and maintaining a private establishment of servants and an equipage which require thousands a year to support. As a matter of course, in nine cases out of ten, all this ends in bankruptcy and ruin, involving not only those who have been guilty of the fraud of trading on false pretences, but others who have been weak enough to accept for reality what was nothing more than hollow and unsubstantial show. How to arrest this decadence of commercial morality is a difficult question. That the downward progress is in full operation, however much we may desire to conceal it, facts, unfortunately multiplied of late, place beyond doubt. The first step towards cure, in this as in all other cases of moral or physical evil, is to ascertain the cause, and for this purpose close and patient investigation is requisite. There may be various opinions as to whose province it is to investigate; but seeing that amongst the most important of the functions of the legislature is a duty of making laws for punishing offences against morals, and seeing also that they have, on various occasions, entered upon examinations with the object of remedying abuses touching the morality as well as the physical condition of the community, this subject may, at some future time, if not in the first instance, appropriately be referred to a parliamentary inquiry.

THE PROGRESS OF 1857.

As usual at this period of the year, we present the summaries furnished by some of our leading daily contemporaries respecting the events of the past twelve months. Recovering, as we are just now, from the serious effects of panic, it is certain that the future course of affairs will be less chequered than of late; but at the same time we must be prepared for fresh revelations of disaster whenever any new kind of speculation shall set in. Extraordinary as are the occurrences which have been traced in connexion with the false expansion of trade witnessed during the last four or five years, it is not unlikely that they will be repeated in some similar shape at the expiration of the usual ten years, when a crisis is supposed to supervene.

In this respect, antecedent periods have exhibited remarkable phenomena. In 1825-26, the effects of the mania for the Spanish American loans and the formation of miscellaneous joint-stock companies caused the rapid revulsion then experienced; in 1836-37, the extension of trade with America and the unfortu-

nate consequences attending the negotiation of the bonds and shares of the banks and railways then promoted in the various states, produced results of the most discouraging nature. In 1846-47 another mutation occurred; England became the centre of the gigantic speculation associated with the railway system, which, coupled with the famine and money pressure, once more exerted a baneful influence, and not only disorganised trade, but caused the collapse of the majority of the leading mercantile firms engaged in the East and West India trades. It was then discovered that the system of business adopted had been most improvident, and that the establishment of duplicate houses without representative capital had been followed with the ordinary results attending speculative trading. After the lapse of the customary ten years, it is found that the tide has turned in another direction; foreign trade in its various phases has been encouraged through a doubtful system of paper accommodation, which has terminated in a crash so soon as the full effects of a pressure for money have been felt, and it is an acknowledged fact that the devastation created by this final movement has been more severe than any previously witnessed.

The *Times* thus remarks upon the course of events alluded to:—

On the 1st of January last *The Times*, after describing a year of apparent prosperity, remarked that if 1857 should pass without any symptoms to denote a new reign of recklessness and delusion it would be remarkable as the first decennial period in the present generation that had been got over without such a result. There was nothing then to indicate the possibility of a convulsion except that according to experience it had become due. The crisis of 1847 had been plain to every one for two years before it happened, but as none could suppose the trade of the country had been wrested by the aid of the joint-stock bank deposit system into the hands of a band of unscrupulous speculators, including swindlers and their confederates, the present storm came upon us almost without a note of warning. It is true that on looking back we may now see many things that should have been taken as premonitions. Just as in the political world great disturbances are often heralded by a series of remarkable crimes that disclose the latent influences in existence, so on this occasion the almost daily exposure of delinquencies in the management of public companies and enterprises of every description that characterised the first half of the year should have served to notify a debasement of commercial morality that must soon end in national trouble. But the inference would have been too general to have been heeded, and the penalty of neglecting it has accordingly fallen, more or less, upon all classes. Of the "disasters" just witnessed two-thirds at least are now admitted to have been palpable blessings, purging commerce for a time from the most pestilent beings

that ever disgraced its name. The sufferers from the remaining third have been struck, perhaps, only from not having kept proper watch, and will recover in due time. But neither these nor society at large can talk of undeserved misfortunes. We are all answerable in our degree for the state of things that has been allowed to grow up. We could not detect the hidden machinery with which rogues would work, but we might each—by denouncing the admiration shown to successful gamblers, the "sympathy" for all who break down in the midst of a grand career of spoliation, the tolerance by shareholders of the unscrupulousness of boards, and the readiness of the legislature to prefer expediency to principle, to hamper trade with protective restrictions, and to make the law a weapon for the fraudulent schemer rather than for his victims—have checked the corruption upon which alone such creatures find their life.

With 1858 we enter on a new course, doubtless fancying ourselves sadder and wiser than at any former time. The extent of our improvement will soon be tested. Six months after the crisis ten years ago the rate of money went down to 3½ per cent., and in the following year it was at 2½. Analogous results are now possible. Indeed, they may be more rapid, should the rebound be in proportion to the greater suddenness and intensity of our recent struggle. When that time arrives—in June next, or June, 1859—what will be our course? Previously to any great excitement manifesting itself there will, doubtless, be an extraordinary recovery in all the existing securities, guaranteed or otherwise, which have long been depressed by the absorption of money into discount channels; but when these have reached their full value, even reckoning them relatively with the low rate of interest obtainable by other means, the throng of dishonest adventurers will again be renewed from all parts of the world, and some fresh mania will be inaugurated against which past experience will avail nothing. It will not be a railway mania nor a discount mania, nor anything precisely such as we have witnessed before. It will be the same imposture, but in a grand new dress, and all who are eager to dupe or be duped will anathematise the few who may attempt to tear off its colours and to sermonise on the only sources of honest wealth.

Of course, India seems to suggest one of the most prominent fields of future speculation, and China may likewise again prove an attraction, since it is impossible to conjecture what may arise out of the approaching occupation of Canton. Nearer home there will also be active agencies at work, but as these will want novelty, they may perhaps prove merely subordinate. Within the next nine years, Russia intends to get more than thirty millions sterling to complete her railway system, and by the diffusion of western capital to bring her population into renewed vigour to grasp again at any political object that may then seem ripe. Indeed, the impatience to repair the late abortive attempt is said to be such that the progress of our money market is even now watched from week to week in order that the first signs of returning

credulity should be turned to account for this scheme before other claimants can step in.

The dangers of a rage for Indian investments may be averted by the Government refusing guarantees, except upon condition of two-thirds or three-fourths of each undertaking being carried out by native capital; but, as a general rule, there is no power whatever that can prevent a low rate of money from being followed by wild extravagance. The question as to the way in which this extravagance will develope itself is not of much importance, and there is little use in entering into conjecture regarding it, since it is sure to come in a shape precisely opposite to all predictions. All that the prudent classes can do is to enforce upon the Legislature the duty of seizing an interval of calm to bring our financial and commercial laws into a position in which, whatever may happen, no one shall have anything to blame but his own folly.

Perhaps there is little hope that any great effort of the kind will be witnessed. A month back every man was excited upon the necessity of a thorough purification of our commercial system. A month or two previously nothing was thought of but our communications with India, and not an hour was to be lost in promoting telegraphs and all other facilities. A month hence some new question will have arisen, and any one talking about the Bank Charter Act, the accommodation bill system, or the baleful credit of joint-stock banks, will find himself out of place. With the rate of discount down to 4 per cent., the public will care no more about these matters than about the last visitation of cholera. They will be satisfied that there is a committee spending weary days upon them, listening to platitudes which have been ridiculed over and over again, and likely at last to report in harmony with all those platitudes, every one being too busy on other things to expose and destroy them finally at the critical time.

Nevertheless, the lesson of 1857 must not pass unrecorded. Whatever new avocations may arise, it is the business of the entire commercial community to recognise, on the opening of the new year, that their fame has been more foully stained than at any former period; and that if they are content to let this disgrace rest without a determination that the criminal law shall be made henceforth to take within its scope the class whose magnificent villanies have just been exposed, allowing no screen to be afforded through the social position, the directorates and other honours gained by such courses, they must be prepared to accept, in the eyes of the world, the responsibility of covert, if not of open sympathy, with them. It is also time, whether the Legislature will regard it or not, for all leading English merchants to speak out on the questions, whether they are prepared to demand that Government restrictions and interference with trade, after the results that have been witnessed, should be brought to an end; whether the principle of the freedom of every man to manage his own affairs so long as he avoids trenching on the rights of his neighbour, shall at last be recognised in its entirety, and carried to all its logical conclusions; and finally, whe-

ther the currency of the country shall be preserved inviolate, even though all who become giants in the City from playing into the hands of gamblers should be driven on some untoward occasion to share the fate of those smaller men who suffer occasionally from imprudent confidences, but who, owing to their limited capacity for bringing their country into danger and disgrace, never find themselves saved by Ministerial interposition.

The *Morning Herald* furnishes the appended lucid summary:—

It is impossible to review the transactions of the year without feeling impressed with the importance of the various changes which public affairs have experienced. The extraordinary frauds and the singular operations which have been traced in connection with trade exhibit a loose system of business; and were it not for the unfortunate results which have been displayed in connection with these events, the past might only be received as a warning for the future. Although the expectation was entertained that the year would be one of prosperity, from the opening symptoms which were associated with the development of trade, it has unhappily proved, on the contrary, one of extensive disaster, and calculated to create fears for the immediate recovery of business in its several departments. The state of the money market in January was uncertain, and the maintenance of the rate at 6 per cent. was indicative of the comparative high value of accommodation which had been supported throughout the close of the previous year. As the Bank directors had, however, reduced the rate of discount from 6½ per cent. to that point, it was thought that the spring would introduce a more favourable period for business; and the expectation that commerce, in its various relations, would improve, induced many to believe that there would be a general revival. Political affairs did not at this moment assume much importance; but the opening of Parliament, and the reduction of the income tax from 16*d.* to 7*d.* in the pound, gave rise to an impression that the burdens of the country would be in some measure alleviated. The question that was agitating the country at this particular moment was the policy of the Chinese war; and on the debate in the House of Commons, the defeat of the ministry by a majority of sixteen caused some excitement. It was, however, soon ascertained that the Government did not intend to resign, but only, through the adverse vote, to appeal to the country. Meanwhile the new elections commenced, and this for a moment prevented the extension of business. The discovery at this period of the liquidation of the London and Eastern Banking Company, and the features which the management exhibited, caused considerable consternation. The money market, although it exhibited occasional symptoms of greater abundance, was not in a satisfactory position; and the continuous withdrawals of gold from the Bank, both for the supplies required by the Bank of France and the remittances to the East, checked the increase of the stock of bullion in the Bank of England. The weather was tolerably favourable for the operations of the harvest; but as there was no expectation of the supplies of gold reaching

a high point, the directors of the Bank of England, in April, advanced the rate of discount from 6 to 6½ per cent. At this period it was evident that the pressure was steadily increasing; and in consequence of the continental demand, the various rates of discount abroad also advanced. The Board of Trade returns continued to exhibit a proportional increase in the aggregate amount of exports; but the circumstances which have since attended the explanation of the excess of trading, and the results consequent thereon, show that the augmentation was not legitimate.

During May and June the market was more freely supplied with capital; but notwithstanding the receipts of treasure from Australia and America were considerable, they scarcely produced any important influence upon the rate of accommodation. A tendency, nevertheless, was manifested on the favourable side, and from 6½ the rate on the 18th June was reduced to 6 per cent.; the Bank of France lowering their terms from 6 to 5½ per cent. In the interval the state of business appeared satisfactory; but some few suspensions occurred in the provinces which, however, were supposed to be produced by irregular operations. The outbreak of the Indian mutiny in June, and the subsequent intelligence of the spread of insurrection, caused some apprehension; and although the Government authorities professed to view the disaffection with little alarm, the public were inclined to estimate the consequences as much more serious. On the 16th July, the directors of the Bank of England made a further alteration in the rate of discount—from 6 to 5½ per cent.—the influx of gold from Australia and other sources having been sufficient to supply the continental demand and leave a large balance in this country. At the same time the Bank of France were ameliorating their restrictive measures, the terms for advances on public securities having been brought down from 6 to 5½ per cent. The prospects of the harvest were considered to be very encouraging; but the succeeding advices from Calcutta and Bombay arrested any positive tendency to improvement. The state of mercantile and financial concerns at this moment was not discouraging, though an unfavourable feature that presented itself in connection with the general condition of the money market was the tendency exhibited by the banks in Germany and the north of Europe to elevate their rates of discount.

August brought the termination of the Parliament; and notwithstanding the accounts from the provinces with respect to business were supposed to be favourable, some doubts were entertained of the prospects of the close of the year. The enormous increase which had taken place in the export of silver to the East exercised a considerable effect upon the money market, but towards the close of the month greater confidence was exhibited, and it was expected that affairs would not be further liable to disturbance. A fresh cause for apprehension now unfortunately arose, the intelligence having been received of the commencement of the crisis in the United States; and the rapidity with which failures followed from the date of the announce-

ment of the fearfully insolvent state of the Ohio Life and Trust Company, caused the advices from New York to be awaited with great anxiety not unmixed with sombre forebodings. The coöperative influences of the intelligence from India, the vacillating policy of Lord Canning, and the undoubted increase of the intensity of the American financial revulsion, produced much stagnation in general business. In consequence of these unsatisfactory symptoms the value of money again showed an upward tendency, and the result was a decline in the value of most public securities. October was accompanied by further manifestations of pressure; and the accounts from America continuing to be of the most alarming description, several firms of importance in Scotland were compelled to suspend. The antecedent failures had been marked with very discreditable circumstances; but those connected with the north presented unequivocal evidence of unsound trading, based upon an extensive system of accommodation transactions. Some houses showed 20*s.* in the pound, but they were exceptional instances, the majority exhibiting very unfavourable assets, the realisation of which, it appeared, in every instance, would be attended with difficulty.

The intensity of the pressure, and the effect it was exercising upon the value of money, were forcibly illustrated by the rapid rise in the rate of discount by the Bank of England, the authorities having advanced the terms from 5½ to 6 per cent. on the 8th, and between that date and the 19th having again raised the terms from 7 to 8 per cent. While this sudden mutation was proceeding in London the rates in France, Holland, and Hamburgh were also quickly advancing, and increased from 6 to 9½ per cent., whereas in former years they had averaged about half the amount. The American failures were still of the most alarming character, and the suspension of specie payments by the Banks of Pennsylvania, New York, and other states, added to the general excitement. A favourable item of intelligence received about the end of the month was the announcement of the fall of Delhi. The failure of the Liverpool Borough Bank was the first event that, at this juncture, gave a heavy blow to confidence; and immediately afterwards, in November, occurred the failure of the Western Bank of Scotland and the City of Glasgow Bank. There now appeared to be an abandonment of all reliance in the stability of mercantile houses, and the Bank having again raised the rate of discount to 10 per cent., the panic feeling became general. The number of failures had seriously increased, and involving as they did, important interests, the prevalent apprehension was that credit was shaken to its foundation.

Suggestions had been made for the intervention of the Government, and rumours were circulated that an effort to afford relief would be attempted, but every endeavour was exercised to prevent any measure of succour being adopted. The Government, nevertheless, stepped in at the last moment, and on the 12th of November they forwarded a letter to the directors of the Bank of England, authorising the issue of an increased amount of notes should it be required to meet the emergency

of the moment. The full effect of this concession was not immediately apparent, and failures continued to take place, the principal occurring among the mercantile firms connected with the north of Europe. While this disastrous state of affairs existed the accounts from America were more satisfactory, and the subsidence of commercial catastrophes seemed to produce a strong feeling of confidence. The Bank of England, under the power granted to it, issued an extra amount of notes, which, serving to meet the demands upon the resources of that establishment for discount, contributed eventually to ameliorate the stringency experienced. A steady change for the better subsequently occurred, and notwithstanding throughout December the failures were of an extensive character, the feeling of apprehension which had been previously so extensively exhibited became partially allayed. Remittances having been received in large amounts from America, and the Bank of France being in an easier position, with an increase in the stock of bullion, the return to a more favourable state of things was generally anticipated. Several banking failures took place, principally small private establishments, but they were those of exhausted firms which could not encounter any lengthened pressure. On the 24th December the Bank directors, finding themselves in a much more satisfactory position, reduced the rate of discount from ten to eight per cent.; and in compliance with the arrangement made with the Government they transferred the two millions nominally issued in excess from the issue to the banking department. The Bank of France having reduced the rate of discount to five per cent., and the influx of bullion continuing on an extensive scale, the public were encouraged to look for a recovery, which has since taken place, and which promises to be of an enduring nature. Such is a record of the past twelvemonth, which, considering the amount of property sacrificed and the heavy engagements of the failed houses, seriously contrasts with the previous periods of panic in 1847 and 1837; and may be said, in the violence of its aspect, to have far exceeded any convulsion which those periods presented. The Bank of England rate in 1847 did not exceed eight per cent., and when the suspension of the charter then took place the privilege allowed by Government of an excess of issue was not exercised. Upon this occasion the mimimum rate has reached ten per cent., and the total of notes nominally issued in excess of the authorised amount has been two millions. In 1847 the letter was withdrawn within a period of four weeks; but during the recent panic it was allowed to be in operation nearly seven weeks.

The stock of bullion in the Bank of England at the commencement of the year was £10,182,406; in July it reached the highest point of £11,592,160; and on the 9th of November, when the directors raised the rate of discount to 10 per cent., it had descended to £7,170,000. Between the date of the issue of the Government letter and the 24th of December, when the reduction in the rate of discount took place from 10 to 8 per cent., the total had again recovered to £10,753,000. The

bullion in the Bank of France has fluctuated between £11,390,000, the highest amount in the middle of the year, and £7,581,000, when the rate of discount was at the most enhanced point. It has again rapidly increased, and is now believed to be upwards of £11,000,000. English stocks have fluctuated about 8 per cent., the difference between 86¼ and 94¼, and foreign stocks and railway shares have presented a variation ranging from 3 to 15 per cent.

Concluding the retrospect thus furnished, it will be found at this moment that affairs are assuming a much more favourable appearance. The advices from India show that the power of our arms in that quarter of the globe is again triumphant. In America the banks are resuming specie payments, and the state of business is more settled; and amongst our own mercantile community endeavours are being made to consolidate trade, and some of the houses at Liverpool who recently suspended have resumed operations.

MONETARY AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The latest advices from New York speak of monetary and commercial affairs continuing to improve, and hold out a prospect of trade being conducted on a more sound and satisfactory basis, as soon as the effects of the late disastrous convulsion have subsided. Already far more caution appears to be exercised, not only in mercantile transactions, but in the conduct of banking operations in particular. Whether, however, the severe lesson they have been so recently taught will have any beneficial effect upon the banking community beyond the moment, remains to be seen. If the history of previous panics is to be taken as the test, there is but too much reason to fear that the present improvement will be but transitory.

As one step in the right direction, it is announced that the following banks have complied with the amended law of 1855, and have deposited securities with the Treasurer of State to an amount, at their market value, of not less than 50,000 dols., and 10 per cent. in excess of their circulation:—Bank of Goshen; Bank of Gosport; Bank of Mount Vernon; Bank of Paoli; Bank of Rockville, Wabash; Bank of Salem, New Albany; Bank of Salem, Salem; Bloomington Bank; Cambridge City Bank; Exchange Bank, Greencastle; Farmer's Bank, Westfield; Indiana Bank, Madison; Indiana Farmer's

Bank, Franklin; Kentucky Stock Bank, Columbus; Lagrange Bank, Lima; Park County Bank, Rockville; Prairie City Bank, Terre Haute; Salem Bank, Goshen; Southern Bank of Indiana, Terre Haute.

The following banks have complied with the amended law, but have since given notice of their intention to withdraw their circulation. Their notes are payable in coin:—Bank of Indiana, Michigan City; Canal Bank, Evansville; Central Bank, Indianapolis—redeemed by the Treasurer of State; Crescent City Bank, Evansville.

The following banks have given notice of their intention to close prior the 1st day of March, 1858, in preference to complying with the provisions of the amended law, their notes being redeemable at par:—Bank of Elkhart, Brookville Bank, Hoosier Bank, Huntington County Bank, Indiana Stock Bank, Bank of Monticello, Fayette County Bank, Merchants' and Mechanics' Bank, Bank of Syracuse, and Indian Reserve Bank.

The following rather curious statistics with reference to the recent panic, have just been issued by a New York mercantile agency. They estimate the number of firms in the United States at 204,061; the number of swindling failures as 317, with an indebtedness of 5,222,500 dols.; the number of failures that will pay nothing except confidential, 512, with an indebtedness of 20,309,000 dols.; the number of firms that will pay from 40 to 50c. 3,839, owing 197,080,500 dols.; and 435 houses owing 77,189,000 dols. which will be paid in full. The total amount of the liabilities of the 5,123 failures is put down at 299,801,000 dols.; but there will be realized from those who will pay in full 77,189,000 dols; and on the amount of "ordinary" failures, 197,080,000 dols., at 40 cents 78,832,000; together, 156,021,000; leaving a final loss of 143,780,000 dols.

THE EXPORT OF BULLION.

The following statistics relative to the export of bullion from London to the undermentioned countries, for the six months ending the 31st of December, are taken from a statement published by Messrs. Haggard and Pixley. They exhibit some remarkable facts, the total specie exports for 1857 having been £28,477,590, against £17,806,940 in 1856. The shipments to India, principally silver, have been £11,780,510, against £9,045,010 in the

previous year, showing an increase in this respect of £2,700,000. In the case of China and the Straits the increase has been £1,542,000, the exports in 1856 having been £3,976,700, and in 1857, £5,529,580. In these two instances alone there has been an increase of £4,242,000, which will account, in a measure, for the great drain experienced.

1857.	Total Gold and Silver.	Total of Corresponding Period last year.	Total of Exports, 1856.	Total of Exports, 1857.
	£	£	£	£
*India, including Ceylon ...	6,140,600	5,027,000	9,045,010	11,780,510
†China and the Straits	2,363,400	2,808,200	3,976,700	5,529,580
Cape of Good Hope and Mauritius	169,000	12,500	34,500	431,500
Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand	—	—	—	—
United States	1,566,300	—	—	1,566,300
Hamburgh, Belgium, and Rotterdam	1,512,400	2,711,600	3,179,470	1,923,900
‡France, viâ Boulogne, Calais and Dunkirk	2,587,800	249,100	253,590	4,572,800
Peninsula and Mediterranean, with Constantinople	448,900	171,100	549,790	852,200
West Indies	484,400	161,600	273,300	917,900
Brazils	282,700	171,100	483,930	892,300
Africa	15,700	5,000	10,650	40,600
Total	15,571,200	11,317,200	17,806,940	28,477,590
* † These amounts do not include the large sums sent from the Mediterranean Ports, and which during the past year amount to—		Total.		
India, including Ceylon		2,133,580	1,001,600	2,133,580
China and the Straits		1,398,820	1,027,550	1,398,820
‡ The above total is irrespective of the large sums sent by way of Folkestone and Dover to France, during the same period, and which, according to the Customs return, amount to		4,346,800	13,589,500	8,654,500
Ditto, corresponding period last year ...		10,117,900	—	—

THE REDUCTION IN THE BANK RATE OF DISCOUNT.

The value of money has at last experienced a favourable amelioration, and the reduction of the rate of discount has already been progressive from 10 to 5 per cent. Before the publication of the last number of the *Bankers' Magazine* the government letter had been rendered inoperative by the improved resources of the Bank, and the ability of the directors to relax the terms of accommodation from 10 to 8 per cent., and the result was an immediate improvement in the money market. It was felt that this change would be speedily followed by further reductions, the contraction of trade, together with an influx of bullion, not alone from Australia but also America, having assisted to exercise considerable influence. At the same time the subsidence of the panic on the continent, the cessation of failures at Hamburg, and the continuous reduction of the rates of discount by the Bank of France, produced a general impression that the prospects of the future were more favourable, and consequently, notwithstanding the apprehension of an Indian loan for ten or twelve millions, the easiness of money has since progressively increased. The first variation in the rate of discount, since the elevation to 10 per cent. on the 9th of November last, was on the 24th of December, when a reduction took place to 8 per cent. On the 7th of January a further alteration to 6 per cent. was announced, while on the 14th the terms were once more reduced to 5 per cent. Concurrent with this movement the rate of the Bank of France now stands at 5 per cent., the rate at Hamburg has receded to 2 to 2½ per cent., and at Berlin and Amsterdam the official quotation is about 5 per cent., with the expectation of even an additional declension. Although this abundance of money may continue for some short period, it is scarcely believed that it will prove permanent, a partial revival in the activity of trade, with the introduction of various public companies, being calculated to effect an absorption which must eventually lead to an increased demand. Between the present period and the harvest a plethora may be experienced, but later in the year, whatever may be the state of affairs in other respects, the value of money will, in all probability, be again in the ascendant, and rates will no doubt return to their more legitimate level of 5 and 6 per cent.

The City writer in the *Times*, when the first alteration was announced, remarked as follows:—

The Bank of England have reduced their rate of discount from 10 per cent., at which it was fixed on the 9th of November last, to 8 per

cent. The reduction will also apply to advances on Government securities, &c., till the dividends. Of course, simultaneously with this movement, repayment has been made of the £2,000,000 of over issue sanctioned by the Bank Indemnity Bill. The circulation, therefore, now resumes its former condition, and the amount of Bank of England notes in excess of £14,475,000, will be regulated entirely by the efflux or influx of bullion. The present measure was generally looked for by the public, and it will doubtless be fully justified by the *Gazette* return to be published to-morrow evening. Since the preceding return, the arrivals of gold have been continuous, and there is little prospect of their immediate cessation. In the panic of 1847 the maximum rate of 8 per cent. was maintained only for four weeks. On this occasion 10 per cent. has been continued for nearly seven weeks.

The writer in the *Morning Herald* thus observed:—

The Bank directors, as expected, reduced the rate of discount to-day from 10 per cent., at which it has stood since the 9th of November, to 8 per cent., the rapid accumulation of their resources having enabled them to transfer the £2,000,000 from the issue to the banking department. The operation of the Government letter has therefore now ceased, and a communication has doubtless been made by the Governor of the Bank to the Treasury, stating that the strengthened position of that establishment will permit of the withdrawal of the privilege allowed under the date of the 12th of November. Great satisfaction has been generally expressed at the promptitude evinced by the directors in relieving the mercantile community from the uncertainty which would have existed had they maintained the rate, since the exercise of caution might have induced them, with the prospect of the January dividends in view, to have deferred the alteration to the close of the year. The *Gazette* return, to be published to-morrow, will, it is consequently anticipated, present very encouraging features, and looking at the nature of the repayments which continue to be made, together with the important influx of bullion, a further reduction of the rate is, at no distant date, considered probable. The private advices from the Continent to-day are of a much more favourable character, and should the Bank of France, as is stated, lower their terms of accommodation to 5 per cent., a partial revival of activity will at once take place. The rise in English stocks and railway shares which occurred early in the week, was produced by the expectation of this change, and hence no great additional improvement was noticeable to-day. It has, however, had the effect of further stimulating operations in low-priced securities, and has also exerted some slight influence in the produce markets, where business has latterly been exceedingly depressed.

On the 7th of January, the *Times* observed:—

The Bank of England have reduced their rate of discount from 8 per cent., at which it was fixed on the 24th of December, to 6 per cent. As the measure had been regarded as certain for the past eight or ten

days it produced no effect upon the stock market. The bullion now held is believed to be between one and two millions in excess of the total in May, 1856, when the rate was reduced from 6 to 5 per cent., and nearly, if not quite, equal to the amount attained in the following month, when a further reduction took place to 4½. The influx still continues, and is likely to be maintained for some time. The question, therefore, of another downward movement is likely to be entertained at an early date.

The writer in the *Morning Herald* remarked :—

The reduction of the rate of discount by the bank directors from 8 to 6 per cent., was announced to-day. The measure having been fully anticipated, it created little effect upon Public Securities, and although the operations have been extensive in relation to the settlement, the fluctuations have not been very important. It is asserted that the propriety of a movement to 5 per cent. was suggested in the course of the discussion which took place at the meeting of the finance committee yesterday, but that it was over-ruled. An impression, however, still exists that a return to that point will shortly take place, the appearance of affairs on the Continent, and the anticipation that the Bank of France may intimate a further favourable alteration, inducing the belief that money will at least be temporarily abundant.

On the 24th of January, the *Times* remarked :—

The Bank of England to-day have reduced their rate of discount from 6 per cent., at which it was fixed on the 7th instant., to 5 per cent. This is the lowest point touched since the 6th of October, 1856—a period of 15 months. Many persons expect a further reduction, but that must depend on the present influx of bullion steadily continuing for some few weeks. The total at the last return was £12,643,193, and, notwithstanding the payment of the dividends, it has probably since received an increase. Still that amount is rather below the average held at periods when 5 per cent. discount has prevailed. During the last ten years this has been the rate for 101 weeks, or nearly a fifth of the whole time, and the average stock of bullion throughout those weeks was £13,225,000. The range, however, was between £10,000,000, and £15,000,000, the directors of the bank having in 1847 indiscreetly kept their charge at 5 per cent. when the total held was even under the former sum. The number of weeks during the ten years in which 4 per cent. has prevailed was 44, and the average of bullion in those cases was about £14,100,000. An addition of about a million and a half to the existing stock will therefore be requisite according to precedent to bring us to that point. From all appearances scarcely a month can elapse before it will be reached. The Persia on Saturday is likely to bring a large sum from New York, more than half a million may be expected from Australia, £200,000 is on its way from Russia, and considerable supplies from Panama, Mexico, and elsewhere will also probably come in. Meanwhile, although the demand for India and China has partially revived, it does not threaten

at present to assume its old proportions. Any requirements for the Continent will therefore be on a limited scale, and hence, looking at the contraction of business that must be practised for the next few months, there is nothing to affect the immediate prospect of general ease.

The *Morning Herald* again observed:—

The reduction of the rate of discount by the Bank directors from 6 to 5 per cent. early in the day created little surprise, as it was fully anticipated. The position of the bullion, and the decrease of the private securities, will, it is expected, when the next *Gazette* return shall be published, completely justify the authorities in adopting the course they have pursued. The movements of affairs in this respect are now so closely watched, that, with few exceptions, the public are almost as well aware as the Treasury Committee themselves of the probable future value of money, and consequently the effect upon prices is usually unimportant. The bank now will scarcely gain any business except from their regular customers, the charges in the open market being from one-half to three-quarters per cent. below the present minimum. The expectation appears to be that the directors may yet have to recede another half or even one per cent., but it is hoped that any additional declension will be well considered before it is determined on, since it would lead to speculative activity and be attended with very dangerous results.

OF THE FUNCTION WITH WHICH GOLD IS INVESTED BY THE MONETARY LEGISLATION IN FRANCE.

By M. Michel Chevalier.

We arrive at the second division of our subject, viz., an examination of the monetary legislation of France, with a view to determine what is in reality the standard metal of the system, and whether gold has, of right, any claim to this prerogative. If, from what follows, it should appear that this quality has been rather conferred upon silver; if, in addition, it should be shown that the irregular irruption of the gold into our circulation menaces with disaster a vast number of important interests, and by its consequences is of a nature to trouble the tranquillity of the State, it will undoubtedly furnish a strong argument for the adoption of instant and energetic measures to relieve that metal of the functions which, although unrecognised by the law, it has been suffered to usurp in our commercial system.

In order to afford a just conception of this part of the subject, it will be necessary to go back to the year 1798, for the purpose of judging of the "ancien régime" in a financial point of view. From the fall of the Roman empire, until the approach of the French revolution, there had existed on the subject of money a species of total eclipse in the minds of men occupying the highest positions in the political world. In this regard common sense was almost completely obscured.

In the councils of the various governments the grossest illusions were substituted for truths consecrated by secular traditions; and the influence which these deplorable conceptions had acquired remained long after the thick darkness into which the middle ages had plunged Europe had been dissipated. In vain a philosopher, by whom at that time all the world were willing to swear, and who will ever rank amongst the highest intelligences which it has produced (I mean Aristotle), had expressed himself on this question in terms which leave nothing to be added by modern economists.* The spirit of routine engrafted on the rapacity of the treasuries perpetuated in official management the triumph of error, and the impetuous current of the French revolution was at length necessary to dislodge the idol from its pedestal.

Long before the time of Aristotle, however, at the very commencement of civilisation itself, the part which the precious metals perform in the exchanges was exactly known and appreciated. The patriarch Abraham was as well aware as the doctors in political economy of the present day, that silver is an article of merchandise selected by common agreement from among others, but in preference to them, on account of certain qualities proper to it, to be employed in transactions as an intermediary for facilitating the exchange. When he purchased a field to make of it a place of sepulture, he paid for it by weighing an amount of silver as described in the Bible. It is in this way also that the Chinese proceed; little matter whether the silver may or may not be in the form of coin, which we have adopted in the West; all that is necessary for them is the weight and standard, i.e., the degree of fineness. On the contrary, in the official doctrine of the European Governments, and particularly of that of France, from the succession of Charlemagne or of Hugh Capet, the form was considered to be the essential point. The face of a king or of some divinity impressed upon the coin was the guarantee of its weight and fineness, or in the words of the Stagirite, the "sign of its value." In the barbarism of the middle ages this practice, convenient and useful in itself, became strangely travestied; by an impudent sophism they imagined it was the figure of the Sovereign alone which conferred on these money pieces all their value. The monetary legislation of the "ancien

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* "It is agreed," he says, "to give and to receive a substance which, while useful in itself, is readily available for the ordinary usages of life, such, for example, as iron, silver, or such other material of determined weight and dimensions; and which, in order to avoid the inconvenience of continual measurement, is marked with a particular stamp, the sign of its value."—*Aristotle's Politics, Book* 1, *Cap.* 3.

The moderns, in their definition, have only recapitulated this, and say, with Lord Liverpool, for instance—"Money is an instrument which, in the exchanges, serves as a common measure of value, and is in itself an equivalent." They insist on the addition of equivalent to that of measure, in order to indicate that, apart from the monetary attribute, it is a commodity possessing its own proper value.

régime" was, I hesitate not to declare it, in its crude and monstrous pretensions, an insult to good sense, and a systematic robbery t property.

Charlemagne, who was in many respects a great prince, had estab lished a monetary system conformable to true principles. The monetar unit, the livre of silver, was under his reign, a quantity of fine silve equal to the unit of weight, thus, as its name implies, the same as th *as* of copper among the Romans. Such was also the monetary unit c William the Conqueror, but in the course of time the livre of silver wa from motives of expediency diminished, and under St. Louis it had lo about three parts of its weight. St. Louis, the firm friend of justic was desirous of establishing the silver livre at the point where he ha found it, and his money remained celebrated among the people. The long continued to demand the money of "Monsieur Saint Loys," bu in vain. In the interval of about five centuries which separate St. Louis from the French revolution, the livre was successivel debased by more than nineteen-twentieths of its weight of silver. Notwithstanding the enormity of this diminution, M. Natalis d Wailly remarks in an excellent work upon the variations of th "livre tournois," "it furnishes only an incomplete idea of th disastrous consequences arising from the variations in money. If the reduction had preserved a gradual course, the loss, not exceed ing one-fifth every century, would have been supportable for eac generation. It is in this way that the Osmanlis have proceeded; the have modified their money always in the same proportion, by reducin the quantity of metal contained in a piastre. It was reserved for th cupidity of western princes, especially the kings of France, to devis for the debasement of the coinage, a system somewhat original: the were accustomed, from time to time, to retrace their steps, not fro any regard to justice, but with the idea of gaining by the inver operation. When, for example, they were in expectation of receivin an extraordinary subsidy,† by attributing a higher value nominally t the old coins, the Treasury would receive for one livre only, the piec which before were denominated two, and the sovereign gained cons

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* The livre of St. Louis was equal to 20 francs 26 cents of present mone weight for weight. The livre of 1789 contained no more than 99 cents (exact 98$\frac{68}{80}$ cents).

† Here are the examples:—"In January, 1311, a fresh debasement of t money, which lasted until September, 1313, lowered the livre to 13 francs cents. To this succeeded a rise to 18 francs 37 cents, effected at the moment levying the extraordinary subsidy to which Philip le Bel had recourse, whe according to the usages of the time, his eldest son was about to be made "arm chevalier." Four years had scarcely elapsed when another subsidy was exact on the occasion of the marriage of the Princess Isabella, and at a time, to when only "forte monnaie" had circulation. Accident could scarcely ha contributed to such a result twice following, and it would be doing injustice t the politics of the time, to believe the Government a stranger to such a happ combination of circumstances."—*Memoire de M. Natalis de Wailly, sur la Var ation de la Livre Tournois.—Page* 3.

quently, over again, the excess of the original depreciation. In this way the history of the French currency presents frequent instances of the raising of money by a public edict, after it had been previously debased. If, therefore, we would estimate the damage which the falsification of the money has occasioned the nation, it is not sufficient to compare it with that which has taken place in Turkey, where the piastre of about 5 francs 50 cents has been successively debased to about 22 centimes, and limit ourselves to the statement, that, from the time of St. Louis to the French Revolution, the livre has diminished to the 20th part of what it was; it is necessary also, to take into account that it has several times traversed the distance which separates the point of arrival from that of departure. In the nineteen last years of his reign, Philip le Bel subjected money to twenty-two variations. He left the livre tournois at very nearly an eleventh of what it was at his accession, but, in the interval, it had been valued at less than a third. There have been periods when the value of the livre has changed several times in the course, not merely of a year, but even of a week; this was witnessed under the reign of King Jean, whose misdeeds in the matter of debased money have surpassed even those of Philip le Bel. (It was the latter monarch whom Dante introduced into his "Inferno," with the epithet of "base coiner" imprinted on his front.) During the reign alluded to, in the space alone of ten years, from 1351 to 1360, the "livre tournois" changed no less than seventy-one times; of this number, the years 1359 and 1360 furnished the one sixteen and the other seventeen; by way of aggravating the evil also, the rise alternated with the fall, in the manner before described, eleven times.

In the midst of this saturnalia of ignorance and rapacity at the same time that they changed in a manner the most arbitrary the legal value of silver, they altered without more shame or intelligence the relation between the two precious metals:—the value of gold under St. Louis was in reality twelve times that of silver; a little later in the reign of Jean and his successors it had fallen to ten times. Taking no account of this proportion established by the free course of commerce, they instituted for it an imaginary relation agreeably to that which they believed it to have acquired; thus, in the first years of the reign of Charles VII., the official proportion of gold to silver instead of being what it ought to have been, a tenth, was only about $3\frac{1}{2}$. In January, 1360, it was arbitrarily fixed at 4, (or exactly $3\frac{65}{100}$); in the month of March, they suffered it to decline to nearly 1, (exactly $1\frac{4}{100}$), that is to say, it was pretended to establish the par between the two metals at equal weight; the edict of 27th March, 1360, decupled the value of gold from one day to the next.

In the memoir to which I have already referred, M. Natalis de Wailly remarks with truth, that, "if we study attentively this page of our history, we shall perceive that never were revolutions more frequent, or crises and reactions of all kinds more violent and rife; so that it would be difficult to determine if the régime of the assignats itself was

more disastrous for the country than the practices of king Jean, in the matter in question."

From Louis XI., to the accession of Louis XV., the depreciation of money continued, slowly, however, and without entailing any of those disorders subsequently, which were as onerous to the public as the diminution of the coins. In the period of two centuries and a-half, the decrease was from 6 francs to 1 franc 25 cents,* interrupted only by a few trifling and passing reactions. The right to alter the money was numbered among the many inalienable prerogatives of the French crown; and the kings would no more consent to its abrogation than that of the power with which they were also invested, of touching for the evil. This depreciation was greatly increased during the minority of Louis XV., at the period of the famous system of Law; and in support of the arbitrary variations by which the money was debased penal dispositions, recalling by their severity the ordinances of Philippe de Valois, were also adopted. At the same time they recommenced alternately to augment and diminish the money, the variations succeeding one another with extreme rapidity, according to the requirements of speculation during the extremity of the system. In 1720 during a period of four months, from June to September, the "livre tournois" was valued successively at 60 cents, 66 cents, 74 cents, 41 cents, 47 cents, and 55 cents. In December, it returned to 66 cents and remained fixed at this rate until the month of July, 1723; then in the space of three years it sustained eight variations, which elevated it progressively to 1 franc 25 cents; it declined, however, in May, 1726, to 1 franc ·02 cents, which value it preserved until 1785.

From the year 1789 a complete change was effected in the spirit and the letter of the French legislation with reference to money. In the place of notions as destitute of good sense, as they were contrary to the commonest principles of equity, succeeded ideas, sound, clear, and precise, conformable alike to justice and to the traditions of the wisest people of antiquity. These ideas were recognised by most of the eminent men of Europe, at the end of the 18th century, and are the same to which the greater part of the governments have since given their adherence. In France, particularly, it was proposed in the new legislation to provide against the return of abuses as numerous and prejudicial as those which had characterised the monetary system of the "ancien régime." The Legislature was occupied especially with the necessity of substituting for a disastrous variation in the monetary unit, an absolute fixity. This is the idea which we shall find constantly impressed in the exposition which I now approach, of the modern legislation of France on this subject. To render a faithful account of the spirit of this legislation it would suffice, strictly speaking, to take the text of the law of 7 Ger-

* Here, as elsewhere, when a comparison is made of the livre with the franc I have taken the quantity of fine silver contained in the former, and the amount (4½ grammes) which constitutes the franc.

minal, an. 11 (28 March, 1803,) by which our monetary system has been definitively constituted. This law was long in the course of preparation. Several important documents served as a basis for its composition: one, a report presented by Gaudin, at that time Minister of Finance, to the Consuls of the Republic; a report referred to the Council of State, and on which, conformably to its constitution, that corps proceeded to the task of compiling the text of the law; the second, was a report made to the Council of State itself, by M. Bérenger. There followed a second work of Gaudin, and a second report by M. Bérenger, both excellent for reference; but these were not all. Anterior to the Consulate, the question of the currency had occupied all the deliberative assemblies which had succeeded each other during the Revolution: the franc, which is the base of the system, had been determined by various laws in its nature and consistency. A complete project of law had been discussed under the Directory; it had given place in the Council of Five Hundred to a report, in which the author, Prieur (de la côte d'or) had entered into great detail; and in the Council "des Anciens," to another remarkable document by M. Cretet, the same who under the Empire was Governor of the Bank and Minister of the Interior. Besides this, the administration of the Mint, composed of the best informed men, amongst whom we remark the celebrated chemist Guyton de Morveau, had given and regiven its advice; and the Institute itself, consulted by the Council of Five Hundred, had deliberated in a body and drawn up an opinion.

If reference be made to these several documents, they will be found unanimous with respect to the greater part of the questions involved; and, particularly upon this, that there should exist by right money of a single standard only, or, in other words, that the monetary unit should be of a metal specially denominated. This is conformable to the simplest rules of good sense; for how can a certain quantity of merchandize have for equivalent indiscriminately a certain quantity of gold and a certain quantity of silver, and preserve constantly between themselves the same relation, if there is not and cannot be a fixed proportion between the two metals?—The value of gold and of silver depends in a very considerable degree upon circumstances peculiar to each; the same as the value of iron, of copper, of corn, or of provisions. No doubt it would be an exaggeration to say, they are absolutely independent, for whenever two substances have a common usage, the value of the one always exercises a certain amount of influence over that of the other; but between gold and silver the relation is not more intimate than between corn and wine, or between bread and meat; and it must be in the experience of all, that between these last named commodities, for example, the connexion is so close, that the price of the one being given, that of the other can be calculated by it. It was remarked long since by Locke that "Two metals such as gold and silver cannot serve at the same time, and in the same country as a measure of exchange, because it is necessary that this measure should be invariably the same, and maintain the same proportionate value. To take for the measure of commercial values, things which possess not between themselves a

fixed and constant relation, is the same as if we were to select for a measure of length, an object which was subject to expansion and contraction. It is necessary that there should be in each country a single metal only, which may serve as the money of account, the pledge of agreement, and the measure of value." It is notorious, that a great part of the frauds, and the violence committed by the "base coining" kings, and especially by Philippe de Valois and Jean, were rendered practicable from the play afforded by the two metals, admitted on the same footing into the monetary system and alternately quoted the one for the other.

Secondly, the metal which since 1789 has been regarded as a standard, is out of all doubt silver. In the arguments of all those whose previous works had assisted to prepare the law of 7 Germinal, an. 11, and what is more important in the Legislature of that year itself, gold notwithstanding the high price attached to it, was treated only as a subordinate metal. It would be a superfluous digression here to expose the reasons for the preference thus bestowed upon silver; besides the reader may readily supply them for himself:—in the various treatises which have appeared on this subject, it has frequently been proved that silver possesses at least as much aptitude as gold to fulfil the office of a standard, and I therefore refer to them.* It is needless also to observe that the choice of silver for the money standard does not necessarily exclude gold from the circulation; it would be very possible in this system to have even an abundance of gold pieces. Before concluding this treatise I shall take an opportunity of enumerating the principal combinations which have been carried into practice or proposed for this object.

A third proposition, with regard to which there exists no less accord in all the documents accumulated since the year 1789, and which were embodied in the law of 7 Ger. an. 11, is that in order to establish the fixity of the monetary unit, and render it immutable (as far at least as it is possible for men to impress this character upon the institutions which emanate from their hands), it was desirable to effect an indissoluble lien between the monetary system, and the system metriqué. From the moment that attention was first directed to this object, the monetary unit has been classed amongst the various units of measure; nothing could be more logical or opportune.

I now proceed to furnish in chronological order the necessary proofs in support of that which has been asserted with reference to the spirit of the various documents alluded to.

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* The reasons by which silver is recommended for this purpose have been exposed with great force and lucidity in a document written at the instigation of the Dutch Government in French, and distributed throughout Europe in order to explain its monetary reform. This composition is from the pen of M. Vrolik, since become Minister of Finance, and abounds with much interesting and valuable information.

In 1789 Mirabeau constituted himself the eloquent interpreter of the public sentiment, in the Constituent Assembly, by a discourse which forms one of his happiest inspirations, and which, from the research and knowledge it displays, may be regarded as a valuable treatise on the subject. The Constituent Assembly did not come to a resolution on the question, any more than the Legislative Assembly; but the Convention decreed a solution by means of a succession of various laws which I am about to enumerate, and of which the greater part of the dispositions remain still in force. By a preliminary measure the monetary unit was comprehended in the general system of weights and measures, a proceeding calculated to establish a very desirable uniformity in practice. The decree of 1st August, 1793, which offers the first edition of the metrical system, enacts that the monetary unit shall consist of a piece of silver weighing the hundredth part of the "grave:" the "grave," which in this draft was constituted the unit of weight, would have equalled one thousand times the "gramme" agreed upon some time later (or, properly speaking, the kilogramme). Thus the franc, such was the name assigned from that time to the monetary unit, would have weighed ten grammes. As to the fineness, that was a point which remained undetermined; but a note, inserted in the same decree, leads to the supposition that it was intended to be nine-tenths, conformably to the *decimal* system. The law of 18 Germinal, an. 3, which introduced the definitive denominations of the metrical system, such as those of the "stère," the "litre," and the "gramme," limits itself, with regard to the question of silver money, to the statement—"that the monetary unit shall bear the name of franc;" but another law which followed closely after, that of 28 Thermidor, an. 3, contains all the details necessary on the subject. After repeating the above declaration, that "the unit of money shall henceforth take the name of franc," it enacts that, "the standard of silver money shall be composed of nine parts of that metal, and one part of alloy," and that, "the franc piece shall be of the weight of five grammes." From this moment the franc, such as we possess at the present day, was perfectly determined.* Another law of the same date decides further the question of the gold pieces; it provides that they shall be of the standard of nine-tenths fine, and ten grammes in weight. The task of determining the current value of these gold pieces, in francs, was to be left to the operations of commerce. Mints were organised by the law of 22 Vendémare, an. 4.

We thus arrive at the Directory, under which a considerable quantity of five franc pieces was struck, conformably to the law of 28 Thermidor, an. 3.† On the 4 Floreal, an. 6, the Council of Five Hundred adopted the project of law presented by its Commission,

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* With this single exception, that the weight of the gramme was not as yet exactly ascertained.

† Prieur states in his address of 17 Ventose, an. 6, that there had been coined, up to the end of the previous year, 41,398,945f. in five-franc pieces.

headed by Prieur. This project introduced no change in the arrangement already arrived at for silver money. With regard to gold, after confirming the principal dispositions of the law of Thermidor, an. 3, it added two provisions intended to regulate the rate at which the gold piece should circulate between the Treasury and the public at large, *i.e.*, the number of francs at which it should be valued. This was necessary in order to prevent disputes at each payment between the debtors and creditors of the State. For this case, specially, the gold piece of ten grammes, the only one then struck, had a legal value, fixed every six months, from the quotation of that metal with relation to silver. Apart from this, *i.e.*, in private transactions, gold circulated according to agreement, or, as formerly, at a price they were free to impute to it. In the course of after deliberation, the Commission retired these two articles in declaring its intention to present a project of law specially with a view to regulate the value of gold pieces; and matters on this point were provisionally reduced to the dispositions of the law before mentioned.

From the Council of Five Hundred, the project of law was transmitted to the Anciens. Here the rapporteur, as we have said, was M. Cretet, who, in the name of the commission, proposed its rejection.* At the same time, however, the Commission did not hesitate to adopt the fundamental ideas which the project introduced. It proclaimed that the monetary unit was and should remain a piece of silver of the weight of 5 grammes, of the standard nine-tenths fine; and added, by virtue of this character, "it was destined always to be worth a franc, even when future circumstances might arise to debase or increase the intrinsic value of the metal of which it is composed."

As to gold, the Commission des Anciens, equally with that of the Five Hundred, regarded as definitive the disposition of the law of the year 3, establishing that the piece of gold should be 10 grammes, of the standard 9-10ths fine. It declared that the system of having gold pieces of a fixed weight and variable value was "at present recognised as incontestably preferable" to that by which they would be necessitated to recoin these pieces from time to time, in order to proportion their weight to a fixed value, determined once for all. It objected to the decision of the Five Hundred to leave undetermined the value of the gold money with relation to silver. The promise of future legislation on the subject appeared in its eyes insufficient. The matter was one which, in its opinion, demanded instant regulation. For this object it went beyond the provisions contemplated in the before-named articles, which, at the last moment, had been effaced from its project by the Commission of Five Hundred. Recognising unreservedly that the value of the gold piece must be variable from the force of circum-

* The Council des Anciens had not the power of amending the projects of law which were referred to it by the Council of Five Hundred; it could simply adopt or reject them. In this respect its legislative functions were confined nearly within the same limits as that of the present Senate.

stances, it was desirous that this value should be determined every year by a general law, not only for the payments to be effected between the state and its debtors and creditors, but in every instance, according to the course of exchange, and the variations arising in the relation between gold and silver in the principal markets in Europe. Conformably to the conclusions of the commission, the Council "des anciens" rejected the project of law. This occurred in Messidor, an. 6.

Let us next revert to the Administration of the Mint and the Assembly General of the Institute. These two bodies we find were no less in favour of the propositions already mentioned. The former in a report of the year 8 professed the same opinions as the Commission of the Five Hundred on the subject of the periodical settlement of the value of the gold pieces for the public service. The Institute in a report nearly contemporaneous with the project of the Council of Five Hundred, and annexed to which we find the illustrious names of Borda, Legendre, Lagrange, Laplace, Prony, Coulomb, selected with others as commissioners, considered the standard unit, together with the adoption of silver for this function, and in consequence the subordination of gold as axioms and facts irrevocably established. As to the value of the gold pieces it pronounced "it to be useless that the law should establish any relation whatever between the two monies; it is sufficient that it determines the value in francs of the new gold coin at the time of issue, and that it changes this nominal value as often as circumstances may require it." It remarked also that if gold pieces were struck of the weight of eight grammes, of the covenanted fineness nine-tenths, they would possess almost exactly the value of twenty-five francs of that period, a very convenient division of the sum of 100. It suggested the adoption of this piece of eight grammes in lieu of that of ten grammes as decided by the law of the year 3; and added that such a proceeding would be no derogation from the system "metrique," then commonly designated the *decimal* system.

We now arrive at the Consulate. In a report furnished to the Consuls by the minister of finance, Gaudin, we recognise the three principal characteristics already enumerated, and which united render a return to the abuses by which the "ancien régime" was dishonoured in matters relating to money absolutely impossible. Among other passages worthy to be extracted from the report in question the following exhibits a rare significance:—"The project of the monetary system which I have the honour to present to you, citoyens Consuls, appears destined permanently to fix the price and the value of silver. This price will afford a shelter from the variations which it has successively experienced from remote periods until the present moment; the abundance or scarcity of the metal will in no way affect either the weight, or fineness, or value of the franc piece. We shall no longer be called upon to witness repayments effected with values less than those which may have been advanced; the denomination will correspond with the weight. He who lends 200 francs cannot at any time be satisfied with less than a kilogramme of silver in return,

which will always be worth 200 francs, and will never be valued at more or less.* The supply will necessarily influence the objects of commerce and property generally, their prices will be regulated of themselves in relation to money, but the price of silver will remain the same. Thus will the system be characterised both by stability and justice. The mètre will be the regulator of the weight of the silver franc, the value of which will determine that of the other pieces of money. Gold will rate with silver in the proportion of 1 to 15½; if in the course of time circumstances should arise to occasion a change in these proportions, gold alone will have to be recoined; the cost of fabrication, which will amount only to half of the unit per cent, will be at the charge of the proprietors of the money."

The report of Gaudin was transmitted to the Council of State, conformably to the constitution of the time, in order that that body might prepare the project of law to present to the legislative corps. The examination of the question was required by that section of the finances to constitute it the subject of a report to the Council. It had for "rapporteur" M. Béranger, a man of rare intelligence, and one of the best versed in political economy of his time. The two reports successively made by this gentleman compose, notwithstanding their brevity, a theoretical and practical treatise upon money. The necessity of the single standard particularly is there established by irresistible power of argument. Not contented with proving that the double standard is a chimera, since it is impossible to possess for the measure of values two metals of which, by the force of circumstances, the reciprocal value is variable, he shows that the admission of gold and silver into the monetary system of a state upon the same footing, would be an injustice to every creditor, inasmuch as he would always be paid with the one of the two metals, the value of which would be the least at the moment.

He insists, also, upon another consideration which is important. If the two metals should be at par in the eye of the law, the Government having the option of employing either one or the other, will be exposed to the irresistible temptation of resorting to the same manœuvre, and will thus be enabled to lighten its charges by acquitting its obligations in that metal of which the relative value may have fallen. It will only be necessary, for instance, to bring up alternately the value of gold to that of silver, and the value of silver to that of gold, to diminish successively the burden of the national debt, to the injury of the creditors of the State, the great scandal of public morals, and not without occasioning considerable derangement amongst private interests. For example, when gold may have risen in value as compared with silver, the State will naturally be disposed to effect its payments in the latter metal; and the law authorising it, private debtors will not fail to

* The kilogramme of fine silver yields 222 francs 22 centimes, but in the money the proportion of alloy being a tenth, the kilogramme of money must not only be *worth*, but actually *be* always 200 francs.

follow the example. Circumstances change, abundant fields of gold are discovered, and, in consequence, gold, instead of being valued at 15½ times its weight of silver, is worth no more than 14 or 13, descending, perhaps, to 12 or 10; things are permitted to follow their own course, and one day, probably under the pretext of confirming facts already accomplished, it is decided by law that the legal proportion between the two metals, in place of being expressed by 15½, shall be 14 or 13, or even 10; henceforth, therefore, debts may be acquitted with 10 kilogrammes of gold, where the creditor had reckoned upon receiving 15½ or an equivalent quantity of silver. A little later and the silver mines may have become more productive, the extraction of the metal is stimulated, and its value, in consequence, declines:—retracing its steps, therefore, from the ratio of 1 to 10, it ascends successively to that of 1 to 12, 13, 14, or 15½, &c.:—the State and other debtors now pay only in silver, or if in gold, then by a quantity diminished in comparison to that which would have been necessary in the preceding period to the extent of the fall in the former metal. At each of these oscillations the creditor is despoiled little by little, until at last he finds himself destitute of everything. The franc which originally contained 5 grammes of silver of $\frac{9}{10}$th standard, would now represent only 4 or 3, and constantly less and less. By favour of the cheating hypothesis of a double standard, and the alternate selection for a type of that metal which may be relatively debased, they would arrive at exactly the same result which the princes of the "ancien régime" sought and attained when, either clandestinely or with reckless effrontery, they put copper into the crown pieces, or changed by edict the denomination in "livres" of the old coins. In this way, says M. Béranger, we should descend to the 76th part of the franc, as the "royal coiners" of the "ancien régime" had reduced the livre to its 76th part.*

Amongst the authors of the law of 7 Germinal, an. 11, there reigned then a perfect accordance as to principles, *i.e.*, the absolute necessity of a single metal standard; the choice of silver for such function, implicating thereby the subordination of gold; and lastly, the incorporation of the monetary unit into the system "metrique." The

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* Let us explain this by means of a suppositious calculation. The franc containing 5 grammes of silver of 9-10th fine, its equivalent in gold consists actually of 32½ centigrammes of the same standard. If the value of gold fell to 10 times that of silver, it would be arranged that the franc should remain composed of this quantity of gold, and it would be necessary to reform the silver money, so that the franc in that metal would contain no more than 3¼ grammes, always of 9-10ths standard. As the silver falls in its turn, and the decline is such that the proportion between the two re-ascends to 1 to 15½, by this system they would conserve the 3¼ grammes of silver for the franc, and gold would have to be recoined, the equivalent in that metal being now reduced to 21 centigrammes. A new decline in gold supervening, by which the proportion is again brought down to 1 to 10, by a like operation the franc will not contain more than 2⅛ grammes of silver. In this way, therefore, we see it is possible rapidly to retrace the steps of Philippe le Bel, Philippe de Valois, and their emulators in the art of debasing the money.

project of the law had passed through seven editions, characterised invariably by these fundamental ideas. As to the formula of the subordination of gold, this appeared to them a point of secondary importance, on which they differed in opinion, as I proceed to relate. The question is no doubt open to discussion whether gold would not have been as eligible as silver to sustain the part of a standard. In 1816 the English were of opinion that it was more so, and that metal at present forms the basis upon which their monetary system is founded; the ounce of gold of the standard $\frac{11}{12}$th fine, containing £3 17*s.* 10½*d.* sterling. Silver is consequently the subordinate metal. With gold for a standard the necessity for silver in the circulation becomes very limited, since it is practicable to coin pieces in the former metal of a denomination so low as 10 francs, (in France even they have essayed to fabricate them for the half of that amount). Under these circumstances also silver may without inconvenience be allowed to circulate as "billon" *i.e.*, of a value intrinsically less than its nominal one,—which in consequence restricts its use to small payments. This is the case in England, when by the law of 1816 the silver pieces in circulation contain 8 per cent. of alloy, but are only legal tender for payments not exceeding £2 sterling. On the contrary, in cases where silver is the standard, gold, from the advantage it possesses of being more portable, is applied concurrently with bank notes specially to the service of large payments, under circumstances which actually necessitate the conveyance of money. It constitutes in this way an essential part of the currency, whilst by the hypothesis of a gold standard silver may be reduced to an employment so entirely secondary as not, properly speaking, to come under the denomination of money at all.

The eventuality of the variation in the value of gold pieces was distinctly foreseen and provided for by the Legislature of the year 11; it may not, however, here be out of place to enter into some further details on the subject. I will recall, therefore, in as succinct a manner as possible, the reasons for the measures which were definitively adopted with reference to the form and consistence of gold coins, by tracing them to their source, *i.e.*, the reports emanating from Gaudin, the interpreter of the Government in this matter. In his eminently practical views, a great inconvenience was to be apprehended from the gold coins not representing a specific number of francs. He argued that it would be extremely vexatious for the public that it could not "change a gold piece without receiving all kinds of small change," and to be compelled, whenever they had to do with an account in which gold pieces were concerned, "to have recourse to the pen and the pencil." To this objection the section replied that it would be a still greater inconvenience to resort, as Gaudin proposed, to the re-coinage of the gold pieces every time that their value should have sustained a modification, considering the variable relation between the two precious metals, and the enormous expense for those at whose expense the operation would be effected. Gaudin replied by denying that the

cessity of the re-coinage would be so frequent as was represented, or at the expense attending it would be so great. On the first of these points he asserted that a re-coinage would only take place once in fifty years at most, citing, in support of his opinion, the experience afforded by the period comprised between the years 1726 and 1785. With reference to the expense he was more positive still, and demonstrated from calculations he had made, that it would amount to a comparatively insignificant sum, not exceeding ½ per cent., or dividing this by the fifty years in question, only $\frac{1}{100}$th per cent. on the amount of that coin in circulation.

Gaudin was correct in his estimate of the unimportance of the expense attending a re-coinage; he was in error, however, in the conclusions which he drew on the subject of the frequency of such an operation. Experience appeared to him to prove that the proportion between gold and silver might become modified and departed from in a degree very materially from that which might have been agreed upon, without either of the metals being withdrawn from the circulation. From the circumstance that gold pieces fabricated in 1726 in the ratio of 1 to 14½ of silver, remained in circulation when the proportion between the two metals had altered to 1 to 15, he judged that similar pieces of 20 and 40 francs would continue to be employed even on a large scale, when for that of 1 to 15½ another relation might be substituted, such for instance as 1 to 16. For a practical man his first error was in arriving at so positive a conclusion from a single and isolated fact, without inquiring whether the financial history of the country has not furnished others of a contrary character. The second consists in applying to modern France a conclusion drawn from the practice of the "ancien régime," when commercial transactions were of an extremely limited character, when the coinage was under the influence of abusive regulations, and trade in the precious metals subjected to very restrictive and vexatious laws. The example which he has cited as an authority on the question will be found to tell against him. In the year 11, when the law of 7 Germinal was passed, which established the proportion of 1 to 15½ between the two metals, such proportion actually existed in commerce; by degrees, however, it became modified, and gold continued to value generally a little over 15½ times that of silver, sometimes even exceeding 16. The variation in question which has ranged from about 2 to 3 per cent., equalling very nearly that which was manifested subsequently to 1726, ought not to have produced any effect on the circulation, if the conclusions of Gaudin had been correct; on the contrary, however, they have had a very considerable one, sufficient in fact to effect the retirement of gold from the circulation. It had become in consequence a merchandise to be purchased of the money changers, by parties desirous of exporting pieces of this metal. The parallel circulation of these pieces ceased to exist a few years after the passing of the law. The coinage consisted entirely of silver.

Gaudin was also mistaken upon another point; he imagined that the

possible variation of gold with relation to silver would not exceed a few hundredths; the change in the proportion from 1 to 14½ to 1 to 15, is equivalent to 3½ per cent., and that it would be accomplished once for all, after which it would be considered as preserving a stationary condition, or nearly so, during another and considerable period. This was to suppose that the nineteenth century would, in this respect, closely resemble the eighteenth, without reference to former periods when the variation between gold and silver had been more marked; a dangerous hypothesis, and one which a practical man like himself ought to have mistrusted. Certainly there was nothing to lead Gaudin to foresee the almost simultaneous discovery of the Californian and Australian mines; but apart from this, and arguing from facts less exceptional, his conclusions would be completely overturned. If, in place of a fall of 3 to 4 per cent., in the value of gold with relation to silver, we can imagine one of 10 to 12 which must inevitably be accomplished in the course of 10 or 15 years, what, then, becomes of Gaudin's calculations? After a first decline of 3 to 4 per cent., or rather even before if it were desired to retain silver in the circulation, it would be necessary to proceed to a recoinage of the gold. The operation would not be terminated before it would be found requisite to resort to another, before the conclusion of this, to a third, and so on. Is such a condition of things one which any practical man would be willing to recommend?

In conclusion, then, it results from the French monetary legislation, that the creditor of the State, a proprietor, for instance, of 100 francs revenue derived from the funds, possesses an inalienable right to receive annually 100 times 5 grammes of silver of the standard $\frac{9}{10}$ fine. He might, in point of fact, be paid in gold, but on the express condition that he receives a sum which, after the compared course of the two metals, shall be at the moment of payment, the commercial equivalent of the above quantity. It would be a robbery were it pretended to pay him with anything less than this, equally as if tender was made him of 80 or 75 silver coins of 5 grammes each, or again of 100 coins containing 4 grammes of fine silver instead of 4½. It is true there exists no tribunal before which the State could be arraigned, or jurisdiction by which it could be enforced to pay its creditors in silver, or the real equivalent of that metal; however, if no such jurisdiction has been instituted (and its very absence implies the supposition that the State would prove a conscientious interpreter of the law as well under adverse as favourable circumstances), there is at least a tribunal to which it is amenable, the decrees of which, although rendered tardily, and divested of a material sanction, are not on that account less sacred or obligatory. I mean the tribunal of history; before this august tribunal all Governments know they must sooner or later be judged with an impartiality which is oftentimes their hope, and which should always be in some degree their warning and restraint.

THE RETIREMENT OF MR. D. B. CHAPMAN.

nnouncement of the retirement of Mr. David Barclay Chap-
rom the firm of Messrs. Overend, Gurney and Co. has not
ned much surprise, since, although he has not arrived at an
ed age, his lengthened connection with that important firm must
laced his pecuniary recources in a very advantageous position.
g a partnership of something approaching forty years it is
able to conclude that his share of the profits, notwithstanding
eavy losses that must be made in the course of periodical
ions like those recently experienced, will have been very great,
onsequently the estimate of the property he has acquired, which
ed at from £300,000 to £400,000, is not probably exaggerated.
ough it is impossible, in the course of such a business as that
ected with bill discounting, to avoid contact with disreputable
es, the operations of trade, however extensive, bringing within
sphere unprincipled characters, still the unfortunate notoriety
h Messrs. Overend, Gurney and Co. obtained through their trans-
ns with Messrs. Cole, Davidson and Gordon has occasioned severe
ments, and created a feeling against the gentleman who is now
ing the scenes of active business life and seeking repose in private
ement.

he questionable proceedings which arose from this long litigated
and the extraordinary exposures which took place connected
it no doubt seriously affected the health of the late Mr. Samuel
ey, whose death some short time since left Mr. Chapman at the
l of the firm. The operations of the house which, nothwithstand-
the competition of the Joint Stock Banks, and the discount com-
ies is as large as ever, will be carried out under the efficient super-
idence of Messrs. Gurney, Mr. E. W. Chapman, jun., and Mr. Pelly,
of whom from their business aptitude and experience will con-
ute to support the reputation of the establishment. As the firm
ess a very old and lucrative connection, it may be found con-
ient under a reorganization of management to dispense with those
nches of business which may be supposed to be attended with
. No doubt can be entertained that with care and prudence the
nger members of the firm have an honourable career before them,
that their prospects are, in a financial point of view, as satisfactory
could well be desired.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

e Board of Trade returns may henceforth be expected, until a new
ge of speculation shall have been established, to present totals which
ll represent the natural trade of the country. We must, therefore,
some time bid farewell to the grand figures with which we have so
g been deluding ourselves. The statement for November was issued
the 24th December, and under the circumstances gives exactly

the results that might have been looked for. Compared with the
responding month of last year, the declared value of our exports
notwithstanding the pressure for money, which must have caused
ments to be made to every quarter where the slightest chance
immediate market still remained, shows a falling off of £1,986
This diminution has affected every branch of business, but the
prominent instances are in cotton, linen, silk, and woollen manufact
Metals have been influenced, but to a less extent. With regard t
colonial trade, haberdashery, hardwares, and leather furnish the
tests, and in the two first there has been a great decline Annex
a table showing the exact increase or decrease under each head :-

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Months ending Nov. 30, 1856, and Nov. 30, 1857.	1856.	1857.	Increase.	Decr
Apparel and slops	£186,463	£178,098	—	£
Beer and ale	128,214	101,097	—	2
Books	42,618	30,273	—	1
Butter	61,556	41,952	—	1
Candles	23,602	13,953	—	
Cheese	17,183	5,962	—	1
Coals and culm	196,587	253,514	£56,937	
Cordage...	11,166	25,216	14,050	
Cottons	2,909,043	2,205,354	—	70
Cotton yarn	681,568	613,575	—	6
Earthenware	132,938	93,928	—	3
Fish	59,102	47,505	—	1
Furniture	22,930	22,199	—	
Glass	49,340	46,103	—	
Haberdashery	257,651	172,300	—	8
Hardwares	371,564	315,092	—	5
Leather	175,179	165,555	—	
Linens	497,539	300,066	—	19
Linen yarn	128,170	139,998	11,828	
Machinery	273,765	294,956	21,191	
Iron and steel	1,077,718	950,855	—	12
Copper and brass...	239,642	257,629	17,987	
Lead	56,717	33,390	—	2
Tin	153,815	70,973	—	8
Oil seed	113,202	33,612	—	7
Painters' colours...	33,681	24,593	—	
Pickles and sauces	29,016	22,428	—	
Plate and jewellery	51,115	40,287	—	1
Salt	35,305	17,322	—	1
Silks	219,814	103,069	—	11
Soap	18,320	18,107	—	
Soda	62,637	51,704	—	1
Spirits	83,235	35,436	—	4
Stationery	64,756	59,537	—	
Sugar, refined	73,686	27,365	—	4
Wool	69,971	14,180	—	5
Woollens	708,710	605,644	—	10
Woollen Yarn	262,358	184,725	—	7
Unenumerated articles	692,189	668,263	—	2
Total	10,272,075	8,285,815		

The total of our exports for the first eleven months of the year has been £115,007,196, showing an increase of £9,161,565, or about 8 per cent. The changes have occurred in the following order :—

	Increase.	Decrease.
January	£1,083,319	
February	1,587,293	
March	1,007,778	
April	500,918	
May	2,648,904	
June	—	£30,247
July	2,233,306	
August	885,513	
September	852,203	
October	318,838	
November	—	1,986,260

Compared with the corresponding eleven months of 1855, the increase is £28,159,916, or rather more than 32 per cent.

With regard to imported commodities, there has been a proportionate falling off in the general consumption. Grain and flour have arrived in full quantities, and in most other cases the arrivals have been considerable, but the supplies taken into use show a great diminution. This is especially observable in wines, spirits, cocoa, and spices. The totals of sugar, coffee, tea, fruit, and tobacco, all show likewise a reduced consumption. In the course of the present month this contraction must have made further progress, and for some time forward its effects will be visible in the Customs and Excise receipts.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption :—

Months ending Nov. 30, 1856, and Nov. 30, 1857.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1856.	1857.	1856.	1857.
Grain, wheat, qrs.	429,882	456,804	429,882	456,804
Grain of other descriptions, qrs.	279,995	349,092	279,995	349,092
Indian corn, qrs....	125,537	152,770	125,537	152,770
Flour and meal, cwt.	205,997	267,218	205,997	267,218
Provisions—Bacon, &c. &c., cwt.	37,363	15,379	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt.	82,514	65,071	75,165	61,521
Animals, No.	26,788	39,359	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	5,839,800	6,645,000	5,399,200	6,645,000
Cocoa, lb.	163,448	233,235	353,711	140,520
Coffee, lb.	5,067,810	7,457,794	2,739,651	2,595,940
Sugar, cwt.	363,526	514,993	526,611	502,406
Tea, lb....	3,554,392	3,724,278	4,909,707	4,883,534
Rice, cwt.	193,891	312,497	126,498	135,879
Spirits, gallons	429,447	500,693	462,677	390,162
Wines, gallons	897,062	638,488	643,344	508,413
Tobacco, lb.	10,000,276	7,552,380	2,775,004	2,630,629
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt...	145,179	163,748	119,635	77,116
Lemons and oranges, bushels ...	62,632	58,486	63,064	62,073
Spices, lb.	1,011,159	746,066	436,929	348,037
Hides, cwt.	1,535	1,219	1,244	1,067

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing a large increase in the importation of every article except hemp. With diminished consumption, our stocks, therefore, must have considerably increased, and the prospects of the foreign exchanges are to that extent improved :—

Months ending Nov. 30, 1856, and Nov. 30, 1857.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1856.	1857.	1856.	1857.
Flax, cwt.	103,699	181,109	—	—
Hemp, cwt	146,498	143,776	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	258,813	480,257	68,846	69,943
Cotton, cwt....	231,595	487,486	110,613	30,666
Wool, lb.	5,960,204	11,927,999	2,732,396	1,700,728
Tallow, cwt.	158,671	196,946	9,632	7,798

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Months ending Nov. 30, 1856, and Nov. 30, 1857.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1856.	1857.	1856.	1857.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	36,841	24,492	33,772	19,974
Ditto of India, pieces	46,111	7,437	10,204	5,476

REMARKS ON THE DIFFICULTY OF INTRODUCING DECIMALS INTO OUR COINAGE, ON THE PLAN KNOWN AS THE POUND AND MIL SCHEME.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

1. This scheme requires the introduction of a new copper coinage, of rather smaller value than the present, such, that whereas 96 farthings are now worth two shillings, we should then have 100 mils equal to two shillings. Thus every piece of copper would be of 4 per cent. less value than at present. The old copper could not be wholly called in, because the Mint would have no new coin of such a value that they could repay the holder of a penny piece without robbing him of 4 per cent. of his property. It would, therefore, be necessary to pass a law that from and after a day named every penny piece, henceforth to be called four mils, should be worth, not as before, the 24th part of two shillings, but the 25th part of two shillings. This would be a direct robbery to the amount of 4 per cent. upon the holders of copper, who are generally the poor, and in favour of the holders of gold and silver, who are always the rich.

2. After the change of value in the copper coins, it would be no longer possible to pay with strict justice any debt or part of a debt that was less than six pence or 25 mils. It would be therefore necessary for the enactment to declare that in the case of every such small debt or part of a debt contracted before the day named, and paid after the

day named, the creditor should lose and the debtor should gain 4 per cent. of the amount. This enactment, or any similar enactment, would create such a disturbance in the minds of the poor throughout the country, that it is difficult to believe that Parliament could ever be persuaded to pass it.

3. In the case of the owners of bridges, canals, and other private tolls, it would be necessary to pass an enactment committing a similar injustice on one side or the other. In such cases it would be necessary to declare that the owner of the tolls must submit to a loss of 4 per cent. on such portion of his income as was derived from tolls smaller than six pence. For any number of farthings less than 24 he must be required to accept the same number of mils. This, however, is an injustice which might be remedied, if Parliament voted a sum of money by way of compensation to the owners of such tolls.

4. Yet more numerous than the above would be the cases wherein injustice, if not real, would be imagined. The change of coinage would produce an inconvenience and a loss to the poor man, which he would feel as a tyrannical injury. At some seasons of the year the watermen ferry boat-loads of passengers across the river at ——— for a half-penny a piece. The charge seems to be rather too low. It is fixed not only by the laws of demand and supply, but by the size of the coins in use. If farthings or half-farthings were in common use, they would perhaps charge somewhat higher, and get a better livelihood. But whenever, for reasons best known to themselves, they think proper to charge a penny, their business is wholly gone—the passengers then walk over the neighbouring bridge. To such poor men the change of coinage would bring the same loss of 4 per cent. upon their income, and Parliament would have no power of offering them a compensation. Countless similar instances might be given where the poor man's pay is so far fixed by custom and the size of the coin, that he would feel a lessening of the value of the copper coin as a direct robbery. When the gold coinage was lowered from the guinea to the sovereign, the physician was able to claim that a silver shilling should be added to save him from the loss of 5 per cent. upon his fee; but no such claim could be made, or would be granted, in the case of the poor boy who is paid threepence a day for standing at the corner of the field to frighten away the sparrows; nor in the case of the London porter at the Hackney-coach stand, who is paid a half-penny by every coachman on driving away from the stand.

5. Hitherto the size of our coins has been fixed for the convenience of those who use them and handle them with their fingers, and not for the convenience of the accountants who add up their numbers upon paper. It seems hardly fair that the coinage should be altered because a number of able mathematicians find the present less convenient for keeping accounts than the new coinage proposed. We ought rather, as hitherto, to consult the convenience of those who pay and receive weekly wages, of those who buy and those who sell articles of small price in the shop, and of those clerks who pay and receive small

change at the counter, rather than of those who enter the sums in th ledger.

6. It has been found by experience, in respect of our silver coinag that the piece of five shillings is inconveniently bulky, and the piece threepence inconveniently small. If the Mint and the Bank of Englan which acts on behalf of the Mint, were to allow the public the fr choice of their own coins, the five-shilling piece and the three-penny pie would, I fancy, both be allowed to drop out of use; I think also th in the same manner a four-shilling piece would be found too bulky f convenience. Not so, however, the half-crown and four penny piec They, I consider, are both favourites, though of course not so impo tant to us as the shilling and the sixpence. The one is not found t large nor the other too small for common use. Those who pay aw large sums of silver would be sorry to lose the half-crown, and tho who pay away small sums would be sorry to lose the four-penny pie Now this convenience is overlooked in both cases by the friends the pound and mil system. They would allow us no silver co between a two-shilling piece and a four-shilling piece; and for our sm silver they would withdraw the four-penny piece and the three-pen piece; and in their place would issue a yet smaller silver coin wor the 10th part of two shillings, or 10 mils, or, according to our prese mode of reckoning, $2\frac{2}{3}d$. So much is the public convenience interest in the size of the coins, that the present limited circulation of two-shillin pieces would certainly not have been so large as it is, had not t Bank of England often refused to issue half-crowns to those who ask for them.

7. As for the superior convenience of decimal arithmetic, I thi its admirers have forgotten the difference between using it in an a cending scale and using it in a descending scale, between using it f amounts larger than the unit and for amounts smaller than the un Observation teaches us that we seldom omit to use decimals wh mounting to high numbers, and that, on the other hand, we very seldo use them in the case of broken quantities. As the very name impli we find vulgar fractions more convenient than decimal fractio though we should wish to use nothing but decimals in multiplicati and addition. Now this convenience our present system of coina grants to us. It enables us to divide our unit into halves, thir and quarters. Each system, it will readily be granted, has its ov convenience in particular cases. We enter a shop and learn t price of an article: the rich man is perfectly satisfied with the use decimals, when he orders 10 pounds or 10 yards of the same, wh decimals would be equally inconvenient to the poor man who shou order a quarter of a pound or a quarter of a yard.

8. Thus the inconveniences as well as the conveniences of decim are sufficiently known without making a new and most troublesor experiment to discover them. Our stockbrokers might at present, they chose, quote the price of stocks in pounds and tenths; but th find it much easier to divide the pound into eighths and in some ca into 16ths and 32nds. Our astronomers might, without consulti

either Parliament or the public, divide their circle or their quadrant into 100ths; but they prefer the division by 60. They refuse to divide the thermometer between boiling point and freezing point into 100 parts, according to the French fashion, though nothing but long habit opposes the change. Let us therefore not overtask the slender arithmetic of the poorer classes, and make a change which would be sure to bring upon them both loss of money and discontent; and this only in the uncertain hope of being able to lessen the trouble of the more educated classes, who ought to find no difficulty in either method of arithmetic.

SAMUEL SHARPE.

Clement's Lane, 6 *January*, 1858.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to Thursday, January 14 :—

DEBTOR.	F.	C.
Capital of the Bank	91,250,000	0
Ditto, New	91,250,000	0
Profits in addition to capital (Art. 8, Law of June 9, 1857)	1,435,505	74
Reserve of the Bank	12,980,759	14
New reserve	9.123,000	0
Ditto in landed property...	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	534,687,590	0
Ditto of the branch banks	46,780,750	0
Bank notes to order	5,674,431	88
Receipts payable at sight	2,982,311	0
Treasury account-current, creditor	62,779,723	38
Sundry accounts-current...	146,078,672	29
Do. with the branch banks	28,955,815	0
Dividends payable	5,601,445	25
Discounts and sundry interests	3,405,202	19
Commission on deposits ...	2,188,723	52
Re-discounted during the last six months	2.209,982	52
Sundries	2,270,455	82
F.	1,053,656,267	73

CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand	70,900,076	69
Cash in the branch banks	180,453,690	0
Commercial bills overdue	715.011	82
Do. discounted, but not due	292,119,080	29
Ditto in the branch banks	251,815,490	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	2,614,200	0
Do. by the branch banks	2,133,300	0
Do. on French public securities	24,092,700	0
Do. by the branch banks	7,613,700	0
Do. on railway securities	37,045,3[illegible]8	0
Do. by the branch banks	12,130,550	0
Do. on Crédit Foncier scrip	253,800	0
Do. on branch banks scrip	71,900	0
Do. to the State on agreement of June, 1848	50,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	12,980,750	14
Ditto disposable	52,189,482	8
New shares, not settled ..	45,621,848	0
Hotel & furniture of the Bk.	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	5,641,834	0
Expenses of the Bank ...	110,228	40
Premium on the purchases of gold and silver	1,153,858	36
Sundries	——	
F.	1,053,656,267	73

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, DE GERMINY.

These figures are moderately favourable. There is an increase of £813,000 in the bullion, the total of which now stands at £10,054,000. There has also been an increase of £1,967,000 in the note issue, of £1,298,000 in the discounts, of £1,132,000 in the deposits, of £276,000 in the advances

on stocks, of £710,000 in those on railways, consequent on the r arrangements with regard to the issue of obligations, and of £75,000 i advance to the Crédit Foncier. The balance to the credit of the Tre shows a decrease of £440,000.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. HERMAN SILLEM AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Herman Sillem, Son, and Co the Hamburgh and German trade, was held on the 22nd December, J. H. W. Schroder in the chair, when the following statement was sented by Mr. Quilter, of the firm of Messrs. Quilter, Ball and Co., th countants:—

Dr.

To sundry creditors unsecured, as per statement ...			...£61,084
Creditors in respect of bills receivable, to be given up	33,033 11 5		
To liabilities on acceptances ...	...£344,851 19 10		
Actually cancelled	£67,934 13 5		
Interfered for, referred, or guaranteed...	153,431 12 10		
Not interfered for at present, but believed to be good	101,388 6 10		
Estimated to be claimed on this estate ...	22,097 6 9		22,097
	£344,851 19 10		
Liabilities on bills receivable and bills negociated, as per statement—£171,274 18*s.* 9*d.*, of which those considered likely to prove claims amount to	10,889 8 5		
Less—secured by balance at bankers', and an amount due on bills negociated	1,023 2 9		9,866
			£93,047 1

Cr.

By cash at banker's	£9,281 7 0		
Less liable to pay bills receivable, considered bad per contra	517 17 10		£8,763
Bills receivable on hand at the date of the suspension	£66,512 2 5		
Less bills to be given up	33,033 11 5		33,478 1
By sundry debtors—			
Considered good	42,444 18 11		
Ditto doubtful, £6,736 6 1 Estimated to produce	2,455 5 1		
Ditto bad ... 1,037 15 1			44,900
Lease of house, No. 2, Crosby-square			317 1
Surplus of the private estates of the partners, estimated at			2,000
			£89,459 1

This estate showed nearly 20*s.* in the pound, and the expectation was that a dividend of 6*s.* 8*d.* might be paid at the end of February, when the position of the bills not interfered for shall have been ascertained. There was cash at the banker's, bearing interest £25,000; balance at the banker's, £5,000; cash at the Bank of England, not bearing interest, £7,000; with good bills on hand, £8,000, making a total of £45,000. The amount of the capital of the firm was £32,000, and this, together with a further slight sum, has been wholly absorbed through the disasters which have taken place in Hamburgh and Germany. Previous to these events the house, as proved by the accounts, was solvent. Although the liabilities on acceptances have reached the large total of £344,851, the estimate of the amount to be claimed on the estate was £22,097. The sum not interfered for was £101,388, but the character of the houses they represent led to the expectation that they would be paid. A distribution cannot be made before the end of February or the commencement of March, as some of the bills will not run off before that date. In answer to questions, it was stated that the open credits have been granted to first-class houses in the regular course of trade, against consignments, &c., and that it testifies greatly to their stability to find that the estimated loss, so far as can at present be ascertained, will be only £22,000. The proposal for a liquidation under inspection was moved by the chairman, and immediately seconded, the gentlemen appointed to act being Mr. T. Baring, M.P., Mr. J. H. W. Schroder, and Mr. L. Miéville.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. DRAPER, PIETRONI AND CO.

The creditors of Messrs. Draper, Pietroni and Co., in the Mediterranean trade, assembled on the 22nd December, Mr. Fitzpatrick, of the firm of Maudsley, Field and Co., presiding; when the subjoined statement was presented by Mr. J. E. Coleman, the accountant:—

Dr.			
To creditors on open accounts			£40,467 14 7
To bills payable	£189,369 18 4		
Of which it is expected there will be provided for by the parties for whose account the bills are accepted	134,284 5 10		
Leaving to rank on this estate			55,085 12 6
To creditors partly secured:—			
Claims...	£19,639 0 1		
Security held	18,895 8 3		
Deficiency			743 11 10
To creditors fully secured:—			
Security held	£120,022 3 8		
Claims...	106,440 8 6		
Surplus to contra	£13,581 15 2		96,296 18 11
To liabilities on bills receivable ...	£175,237 16 11		

Of which it is expected there will be duly honoured at maturity ...	171,984 14 9		
Leaving to rank on this estate		3,253 2 2	
		£99,550 1 1	

Further liabilities on account of the Transatlantic Steam Navigation Company in respect of credits opened for their account against bottomry bonds on the vessels of the company, £26,440; of which amount the company have accepted bills to the extent of £8,460.

Cr.

By cash at bankers', subject to bills discounted now running, considered good...		£3,465 4 1	
Bills receivable on hand...		5,325 9 6	
Debtors, good		11,734 12 11	
Amounts for which parties will be debtors after taking up the bill accepted for their account ...		10,598 13 11	
Debtors, doubtful, £18,385 11*s.* 9*d.*, estimated at 3*s.* 6*d.* in the pound		3,217 9 4	
Debtors, bad	£22,897 18 5		
Silk on hand, &c.		3,456 11 0	
Surplus from creditors holding security, contra ...		13,581 15 2	
Shares and sundry assets		2,477 0 0	
		£53,856 16 6	
Less creditors to be paid in full		294 19 6	
		£53,561 17 6	

Amount claimed by Messrs. Draper, Pietroni, and Co., of the Transatlantic Steam Navigation Company, exclusive of all liabilities, £33,000 subject to the delivery of 1,285 shares to the company.

From the explanations afforded by Mr. Coleman it appeared that there was a prospect of a dividend of from 10*s.* to 12*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, and that 10*s.* at least might be considered certain. The solidity of the connections of the house may, it was thought, be estimated by the fact, that of the large amount of the bills only an amount equal to 2 per cent. of the total is likely to come against the estate. The creditors on open account included £15,000 on behalf of the Transatlantic Steam Company. With respect to the assets, the cash and bills were considered good, the debts stand secured, and the surplus from silk would, it was expected, be realised. The connection of Messrs. Draper and Pietroni with the Transatlantic Company was entered into at length, showing how their claim against the directors arose, and it was distinctly alleged that the neglect of the company to provide remittances had necessitated the suspension of the firm. It appears that Messrs. Draper and Pietroni entered into an arrangement with the Transatlantic Company to provide one-fourth of the capital. A contract for the construction of seven vessels was then entered into. Four vessels were built at a cost of £260,525, the contract being for £400,000 but since it has not been carried out, instead of taking the 3,000 shares as originally intended, they accepted 1,715 shares, and claim £33,000, the difference between that number and the quantity for which they at first

subscribed. These and other points would be submitted to the consideration of parties who might have to determine the question of account, Messrs. Draper and Pietroni being quite ready to meet the Transatlantic Company on fair business ground. It was stated that the company were about to settle with the contractors an amount of £13,000, and if such was the case, the liabilities would be diminished to that extent. The deficiency shown by the statement was £42,000, which was fully accounted for through bad debts and liabilities, the capital of the firm having been about £45,000. No definite proposal could be made, but a liquidation through the process of inspectorship would permit facilities for arrangement. A considerable dividend it was believed may be paid in February, and then the partners would be in a situation to see what further can be done in settling fixed terms by their promissory notes for future payments. The assets in hand were about £12,500, and the collection of everything would proceed as expeditiously as possible. After some conversation it was agreed that the estate should be wound up under a deed of inspection, and the following representatives of creditors were selected to act:—Mr. Rennie, Mr. Yames, Mr. Fitzpatrick, and Mr. Price.

THE ESTATE OF MR. THOMAS MELLADEW.

A MEETING of the creditors of Mr. Thomas Melladew, commission agent, who recently failed, was held, on the 22nd December, when the following unsatisfactory statement of the debtor's position was presented by Messrs. Turquand, Young, and Co. A proposal was made to pay 3*s.* in the pound cash down, and a committee of two creditors was appointed to investigate and to report to an adjourned meeting:—

Dr.				
To creditors unsecured			£19,544	6 2
Creditors holding security, partly covered	£714	8 1		
Deduct estimated value of security ...	555	2 0		
			159	6 1
To Creditors holding security, fully covered	£17,295	18 3		
See contra.				
Liabilities on bills payable, over and above amount included in creditors..	7,370	18 8		
Deduct amount considered likely to be retired by parties for whom same were accepted	914	15 3		
			6,456	3 5
To liabilities on bills receivable ... ... (None of which it is expected will be claimed against estate)	£10,011	8 7		
			£26,159	15 8
Cr.				
By debtors, good			£1,857	0 11
ditto doubtful	£1,238	3 7		
Considered worth about			200	0 0
ditto bad	7,896	4 2		
Carried forward			£2,057	0 11

	Brought forward		£2,057
By property unencumbered			1,785
Bills receivable in hand			54
Property held by creditors—			
Estimated value	...17,598 15 8		
Deduct creditors' claims ...	...17,295 18 3		
			302 1
			£4,199
Deduct creditors to be paid in full			321 1
			£3,877

At the adjourned meeting on the 5th January, a composition of was accepted.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. E. SIEVEKING AND SON.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. E. Sieveking and Son, comm with the Swedish trade, who failed in December, took place on the 23 the same month, Mr. Meinertzhagen in the chair, when the subjoined s ment was presented by Mr. Quilter, of the firm of Quilter, Ball, and accountants:—

Dr.

To sundry creditors, as per statement			£77,229
Sundry creditors partially secured, as per statement	£18,000 0 0		
Less estimated value of security ...	15,866 0 11		
			2,133 1
Sundry creditors fully secured:—			
Amount of claims	£4,970 9 2		
Value of security	7,000 0 0		
Surplus to contra	£2,029 10 10		
Liabilities on acceptances, as per list	£454,690 2 4		
Of which it is expected claims will arise on			125,014
Liabilities on bills receivable, as per statement	£348,956 12 0		
Of which those reckoned as bad and claimable on us amount to ...	£57,110 4 8		
Deduct securities in the hands of holders, as per statement	3,122 3 7		
			53,988
			£258,365

Cr.

By bills receivable on hand, as per list:—					
Considered good			£26,191 15 2		
Ditto doubtful ...	£9,041 3 6				
Estimated at			2,000 0 0		
				28,191	15 2
Sundry debtors, as per list:—					
Considered good			£56,900 13 1		
Ditto, being represented by merchandise on hand, as per statement ...			45,195 4 0		
Ditto, doubtful ...	£24,810 1 3				
Estimated at			10,800 0 0		
Ditto, bad	£7,667 2 7				
				112,895	17 1
Surplus securities in the hands of creditors				2,029	10 10
				£143,117	3 1

This estate shows a dividend of from 10*s.* to 11*s.* in the pound, and it was immediately agreed that the most satisfactory mode of proceeding would be a liquidation under inspection. The deficiency which the accounts exhibits is fully explained by the losses incurred through failures since October, amounting to £206,603; the capital of £72,000, with a small balance of £2,000 for commissions and interest, being likewise swept away. Of the £182,000 represented by bills, £125,000 have reference to Sweden, £18,000 to Hamburgh, and £39,000 to the West Indies and other places. There is no separate property of the partners except furniture, and this it is believed will be little more than sufficient to satisfy private claims. With respect to four of the largest items of liability connected with establishments at Stockholm and Gottenburgh, amounting to £36,555, it was mentioned that the partners take a more favourable view than the accountants of the probable result. Much sympathy was expressed for the position of the firm, and the representatives of Messrs. Hambro and other influential houses intimated a desire that the furniture and plate belonging to the partners should not be interfered with. The inspectors appointed to superintend the liquidation of the estate were Mr. H. Huth, of the firm of Messrs. F. Huth and Co., and Mr. W. H. Göschen, of the firm of Messrs. Fruhling and Göschen.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. HIRSCH, STROTHER AND BRISI.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Hirsch, Strother and Brisi, who suspended in the early part of the month, was held on the 23rd of December, when the following balance sheet was presented by Mr. Maynard, the accountant:—

To creditors unsecured				£12,198	15 1
„ Ditto partly secured		£10,472 6 3			
„ Securities valued at		7,383 10 9			
			3,088	15	6
„ Do secured ...	9,416 14 9				
Securities valued at ...	10,048 18 11				
Surplus carried to contra	632 4 2			15,827	10 7

LIABILITIES.

On Bills payable					£25,451	0	2
Whereof there has been or is expected to be provided for by other obligations	3,706	10	6				
Included in unsecured creditors	7,612	19	10				
				11,319	10	4	
					14,161	9	10
„ Do on bills receivable				69,502	17	9	
Whereof there has been provided for by other obligations ...	26,697	4	9				
Expected further to be provided for by others...	39,918	17	5				
				64,616	2	2	
					15,886	15	7
„ Do on rope oil ...				1,000	0	0	
Bought abroad for delivery in London contingent on the vendor's enforcing delivery.							
„ Do on contracts for forward delivery of tallow ...				1,000	0	0	2,000 0 0
							32,048 5 5
„ Do on contingencies				5,000	0	0	
							£47,335 16 0

Note.—It is probable that other contingencies will arise, out of which claims may be made against the estate to the extent of (say) this amount.

	Ledger balances.			Estimd. Value.		
By oil and seed on hand...	£677	13	10	£677	13	10
„ Cash and bills receivable on hand ...	1,775	3	3	1,775	3	3
„ Do. at bankers retained against advance ...	264	15	2			
„ Contracts	5,171	18	8	4,000	0	0
The realization contingent on the business being continued and our firm being able to make deliveries in conformity therewith, and of the parties being able to pay differences.						
Carried forward				£6,452	17	1

Brought forward				£6,452	17	1		
, good... ...	4,210	0	7	3,000	0	0		
doubtful ...	7,541	18	11	1,000	0	0		
ceivable ...	269	16	0					
to other parties.								
securities ...	632	4	2					
ditors.	902	0	2				10,452	17 1
aries, rent, and Culverwell, W., salary to 31st r, 1857 ...	80	0	0					
n account ...	78	19	5	1	0	7		
W., 1 year's 31st December, ...	250	0	0					
n account per	240	18	6	9	1	6		
Thomas, Great ens, 1 quarter's 1st December, 75 per annum				18	15	0		
s (say) ...				30	0	0		
nder £10 ...	66	4	0					
... ...	150	0	0	216	4	0	275	1 1
							10,177	16 0
Deficiency ...				...	...	...	37,158	0 0
							£47,335	16 0

tions of the firm were considered in some respects to have been lar character, but still it was proposed to wind up through the spection. A proposal to make a composition of 3*s.* 6*d.* in the d. down, and 1*s.* 6*d.* in six months), a release to be given on t of the last instalment, was well received, but one creditor d it remains to be seen whether it can be carried out.

ESTATE OF MESSRS. HADLAND, SHILLINGFORD AND CO.

ng of the creditors of Messrs. Hadland, Shillingford and Co., in ster trade, held on the 23rd December, the appended statement ed by Mr. C. F. Kemp, the accountant. After some discussion, , agreeing to accept a composition of 16*s.* in the pound by three of 6*s.*, 6*s.* and 4*s.*, at three, six, and nine months' date, the d to the satisfaction of three of the principal creditors, was

Dr.			
To creditors as per list	£29,063 17 6		
Ditto under £10	184 18 1		
		£29,248	15 7
Liability on bills receivable £7,300 5*s.* 8*d.*, of which it is estimated will come against this estate	£1,968 6 8		
Less balance held by Fuller and Co. ...	13 10 6		
		1,954	16 2
Surplus		639	0 10
		£31,842	12 7
Cr.			
By debtors, good		£10,473	4 3
Ditto, doubtful and bad	£4,334 14 2		
Estimated to realise		941	11 8
Cash on hand		1,120	0 0
Bills receivable, on hand	3,930 1 8		
Estimated to realise		3,537	1 6
Stock on hand, at cost		16,108	5 9
Fixtures		200	0 0
		£32,380	3 2
Less salaries, taxes and rent, to be paid in full ...		537	10 7
		£31,842	12 7
Surplus		£639	0 10
And Mr. Hadland's private estate.			

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. LICHTENSTEIN AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Lichtenstein and Co., who failed in the German trade, was held on the 23rd of December, Mr. Brown presiding, when the following statement, prepared by Mr. J. E. Coleman, the accountant, was submitted:—

Dr.			
To creditors on open accounts		£4,967	15 10
To creditors on bills payable ...	£14,597 13 6		
Less debit balances due by the parties for whose accounts the bills were accepted	12,071 12 8		
		2,526	0 10
To creditors partially secured	£5,540 6 5		
To security held...	3,621 0 0		
		1,919	6 5
To creditors fully secured—			
Security held...	£4,470 10 11		
Carried forward	£4,470 10 11	£9,413	3 1

Brought forward ...	£4,470 10 11	£9,413 3 1	
Claims	4,330 2 7		
Contra	£140 8 4		
Direct liabilities	... ...	9,413 3 1	
To liabilities on bills discounted, negociated, &c.	£47,680 4 8		
of which it is expected there will be met at maturity	32,601 17 11		
		15,078 6 9	
To liabilities on open contracts ...	... ...	1,010 0 0	
		£25,501 9 10	
Cr.			
By cash balances		£2,845 14 7	
By debtors, good		3,498 0 6	
By debtors, doubtful	£121,124 0 0		
Estimated to produce 10*s.* in the pound ...		60 16 2	
By goods, &c., in hand		3,960 7 3	
By bills receivable in hand		484 2 0	
By surplus securities with creditors per contra ...		140 8 4	
By amounts due from parties after taking up the drafts for their account		155 9 5	
		£11,144 18 3	
Less amounts to be paid in full		119 18 3	
In respect of the bills amounting to £15,078 6*s.* 9*d.*, which will at present rank on this estate, it is expected that reclamations will be made from the acceptors to some extent, in which case such reclamations will be available for division amongst the general creditors.			
		£11,025 0 8	

Policy for £2,000 on the life of S. Lichtenstein, effected in 1853, in the Scottish Widows' Fund Assurance.

It was explained that the difficulties of the house had wholly arisen from the failure of individuals abroad, and that a dividend of about 10*s.* in the pound was anticipated. The cash balance of goods in hand represent together £6,805; consequently a distribution of 5*s.* in the pound might be made by the 1st February. At the commencement of the year the capital was £8,000, but the disasters in Hamburgh have entirely absorbed it, and left them with an additional large amount of responsibility. Both Mr. Coleman and Mr. Nicholson, the professional representative of the house, bore testimony to the legitimate character of the operations, and it was finally resolved to carry out a liquidation under inspectorship, Mr. Carey and Mr. Schroder being appointed to act for the creditors.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. CHARLES NICHOLSON AND Co.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Charles Nicholson & Co., of Cannon-street and St. Paul's Churchyard, who failed, in the Manchester trade, was held, on the 24th December, when the following statements of affairs were presented by Mr. Parrinton, of the firm of Parrinton, Ladbury, & Co., the accountants:—

Dr.

To creditors, as per list				£47,317 10 7
Liabilities on customers' bills discounted, which will be claimed on this estate				4,482 5 2
Liabilities on bills for which value has been received by Messrs. C. Nicholson & Co.				4,314 15 9
Liability on joint promissory note				200 0 0
Liabilities on customers' bills discounted, considered good	£20,637	11	11	
Liabilities on bills to be provided for by other persons	1,337	13	0	
				£56,314 11 6

Cr.

By stock in trade at Cannon-street, cost...	£17,267	13	9	
Stock in trade at Angel-street, cost ...	6,270	10	11	
				£23,538 4 8
Book debts:—				
Good				13,414 19 5
Doubtful	1,138	7	2	569 3 7
Bad	3,594	13	6	150 0 0
Estimated to produce				150 0 0
Cash and bills on hand				973 6 2
Lease of premises, Nos. 39 and 40, Cannon-street West, and No. 20, Friday-street, held for a term of about 90 years, from Christmas, 1856, at the annual rent of £1,200, cost with fixtures, &c.				8,903 9 0
Held by Messrs. Candy & Co., as a collateral security for customers' bills discounted.				
Lease, fixtures, and utensils at Angel-street, cost ...				582 0 0
Ten shares in the Unity Bank, on which £50 per share has been paid, estimated at				150 0 0
Surplus expected from customers' bills, claimed in the sum of £4,482 5*s.* 2*d.*, per contra				1,944 12 5
				£50,225 15 3
Less rent, taxes, gas and salaries				1,515 11 5
				£48,710 3 10
By debt due from Messrs. Charles Nicholson and Co., St. Paul's Churchyard	£13,387	5	6	

Dr.

To creditors as per list	£15,428	5	9	
Less security held by creditor on this estate	4,140	0	0	
To liability on bills receivable:—				£11,288 5 9
Discounted, considered good ...	£601	18	6	
Ditto, ditto, bad				282 7 1
				£11,570 12 10

e by this estate to C. Nicholson Cannon-street...			£13,387	5	6		
n trade at cost						£14,482	18 3
ebts :—							
l			...		...	2,620	19 1
otful			£660	18	0	330	9 0
... ...			771	4	2		
of No. 61, St. Paul's Churchyard, an unexpired term of about eight t £350 per annum.							
of No. 62, St. Paul's Churchyard, an unexpired term of about thir- rs, and of Nos. 58 and 59, Pater- ow, held for an unexpired term of re years. The whole at a rental of r annum, estimated with fixtures							
st balance-sheet at			£6,962	0	0		
luct—							
ge debt due to Cap- gue's executors ow- . Nicholson and Co., -street	£1,815	0 0					
gage debt and in- wing to Messrs. C. nd Co. by C. Nichol- d Co., St. Paul's rard	4,140	0 0	5,955	0	0	1,007	0 0
						£18,441	6 4
s rent, taxes, gas, salaries...						823	15 0
						£17,617	11 4

h there are two estates, it was proposed to treat them as one, iew of obviating difficulties in an arrangement. Mr. Nicholson ner in the Cannon-street business, and also one in the London mpany, in St. Paul's Churchyard, and the accounts have been in asure kept distinct. The assets exhibit nearly 19*s.* in the pound, luation of the stock, as made by Mr. Parrinton, could not, Mr. asserted, be realised; and, therefore, he considered himself only m to make an offer of 12*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, payable by instal- nding over a period of sixteen months. The stock, which was e extensive and of a peculiar description, especially in St. Paul's d, would require to be cautiously dealt with, and could not be thened period disposed of. The time consequently asked for the ayment was stated to be not too long, considering the difficulties lson will have to contend with in completing this composition. e is attributable to over-bought stock and trading beyond due apital in his early career having been very limited. Consider- sion took place respecting the proposal, and it was eventually y the great majority—the order of payment being 3*s.* 6*d.* in the our months, 3*s.* at eight months, 3*s.* at twelve months, and 3*s.* at

sixteen months, the last payment to be secured to the satisfaction of the three principal creditors, the estate to go to bankruptcy, if the arrangement be not concluded within a specified period. The necessity of co-operation among the creditors was strongly urged to prevent litigation, and the certain sacrifice of assets.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. SVENDSEN AND JOHNSON.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Svendsen and Johnson, coal and iron merchants at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and general commission merchants in London, was held on the 30th December, when the following statement was presented by Mr. Ball, of the firm of Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Co., the accountants:—

Dr.			
To creditors unsecured			£17,745 14 7
Creditors secured—			
Estimated value of securities ...	£2,258 6 4		
Amount of claims	2,119 3 4		
Surplus per contra	139 3 0		
Liabilities on acceptances, £78,828 10*s.* 4*d.* Of which it is expected claims will arise on			34,286 2 4
Liabilities on bills receivable, £74,389 1*s.* 6*d.* Of which it is estimated will prove claims on this estate			40,993 16 2
			£93,025 13
Cr.			
By bills receivable on hand			£1,417 18
Debtors considered good	£7,939 4 6		
Doubtful, £5,748 10*s.* 10*d.*, estimated at	1,437 2 8		
Bad, £3,737 16*s.* 10*d.*	0 0 0		
			9,376 7 2
Share of ship, estimated value			1,000 0 0
Merchandise and sundries on hand, estimated at ...			231 14 2
Surplus securities in hands of creditors			139 3 6
			£12,165 2 4

It appeared from the general explanations that the firm commenced business in Newcastle about September, 1854, with £381. A branch was subsequently opened in London and business extended, but the system of blank credits had again proved unfortunate, involving the partners in heavy engagements. They had also been connected in bill transactions with Messrs. Hoare, Buxton, and Co., and Messrs. Rew, Prescott, and Co.; and the amount of loss which had thus altogether accrued was upwards of £75,000, out of a total deficiency, as shown by the statement, of £80,866. At the commencement of the year the accounts of the London house showed an adverse balance of £3,000, but those of the Newcastle establishment presented a surplus of £3,000. The assets consist of a share in a ship and good debts in Sweden and Norway. To collect the latter one of the partners proposed to visit those countries, and it was thought that he might be

successful in realising a considerable proportion. The books of the firm had not been well kept, but it appeared to be considered that they pretty accurately represented the general results. Some of the creditors were desirous that the debtors should make an offer of composition, and it was suggested that 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound would probably be accepted. It seemed, however, that they were not prepared to make any definite proposal, owing to the uncertainty of the realisation of some of the estates with which they have had transactions. After general discussion and further explanation with respect to matters of detail, it was resolved to wind up under inspection, Mr. W. Geipel, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Mr. Quilter, the accountant, being appointed inspectors.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. KIESER AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Kieser and Co., lately engaged in the continental trade, who failed on the 3rd December, was held on the 20th January, Mr. Valentine Corrie in the chair, when the following statement, prepared by Mr. G. H. Jay, the accountant, was presented.

Dr.						
To sundry creditors—						
Open account...	£1,435	17	1			
Brokerage commission and exchange	650	0	0			
Grunelius and Co., subject to their retiring our drafts on them ...	2,410	5	8			
				£4,496	2	9
To sundry creditors partially secured—						
Amount of claim	2,523	8	3			
Securities estimated at	2,341	16	2			
				181	12	1
To sundry creditors fully secured—						
Amount of claim	2,600	0	0			
Securities estimated at	2,839	14	5			
Surplus carried to contra ...	239	14	5			
To liabilities (our acceptances) ...	£18,660	7	6			
Less amount accepted for, and since retired by drawers...	£8,656	6	0			
Less amount accepted for, and will be retired by drawers at maturity	1,400	0	0			
Less amount accepted against securities lodged in the hands of Jacob and Son, and which are reported of sufficient value	4,500	0	0			
Leaving to rank upon the estate ...	4,104	1	6	4,104	1	6
	£18,660	7	6			

To liabilities on bills receivable—			
Foreign drafts	£22,201 16 7		
Considered good	12,259 15 9		
	9,942 0 10		
Less securities held against Messrs. Dependorff's drafts for	2,356 3 1		
		7,585 17 9	
Ditto, inland bills, considered good ...	4,334 9 5		
Note—Cash held by Messrs. Cohen, against £3.964 3*s.* 5*d.* of the above, carried to contra	1,200 0 0		
To liabilities on sundry open contracts, estimated at ...		900 0 0	
		£17,267 14 1	
Cr.			
By cash at banker's and in the house		£2,160 2 3	
By bills receivable, considered good		2,309 2 8	
By sundry merchandise—			
In hand, at market value	£5,884 15 4		
Sundries, estimated at	100 0 0		
		5,684 15 4	
By sundry debtors—			
Considered good	£3,485 16 11		
Doubtful £392 15 9			
Estimated at	200 0 0		
Bad 260 5 3			
		3,685 16 11	
By surplus value of securities held by creditors per contra		239 14 5	
By surplus to be received of Messrs. Cohen, per contra ...		1,200 0 0	
		£15,279 11 7	

Note.—Further assets may be expected to arise from reclamations to be made on other parties through whose suspension claims have arisen per contra, and the amount, as far as at present can be ascertained, will enable Messrs. Kieser and Co. to pay 20*s.* in the pound.

Although the liabilities of the firm represent about £50,000, the amount which will be proved against the estate is not likely to exceed £17,267. The assets are expected to realise 20*s.* in the pound; but the creditors appear inclined to refuse the acceptance of more than 17*s.* High testimony was afforded to the conduct of Mr. Kieser, whose transactions have been regulated by a scrupulous regard to honour. The failure has been caused by the Hamburgh disasters; but notwithstanding the firm could have proceeded for some months longer, it was considered essential for the interests of the body of the creditors to suspend. At the termination of the proceedings most favourable resolutions were passed, of which the subjoined is an abstract:—

"That the partnership now subsisting between Messrs. Kieser and Jacol being dissolved, Mr. Kieser be at liberty to resume and carry on his business; and that the creditors, notwithstanding the desire of Mr. Kieser to undertake the payment of 20*s.* in the pound, accept payment of their demand by three instalments, amounting together to 17*s.* in the pound; the first 10*s* in the pound, on the sanction of the creditors being obtained to this ar-

rangement; the second of 3*s.* 6*d.* in the pound at four calendar months; and the third and last instalment of 3*s.* 6*d.* at eight calendar months from the date thereof. That the creditors beg to express their sympathy with Mr. Kieser under his present position, and their entire approval of his conduct throughout."

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. REW, PRESCOTT AND CO.

A NUMEROUS meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Rew, Prescott and Co., engaged in the Swedish trade, who suspended on the 14th December, took place on the 15th January, at the Guildhall Coffee-house, Mr. Prescott, the banker, in the chair, when the following favourable statement was presented by Mr. J. E. Coleman, the accountant:—

Dr.

To creditors on open accounts			£33,008 10 11
Ditto on bills payable	£81,625 1 8		
Of which it is expected there will be provided for by the parties for whose account the bills were accepted	52,708 18 11		
Leaving to rank on this estate			28,916 2 9
To creditors fully secured—			
Security held	3,004 18 2		
Claims	935 8 0		
Surplus to contra	2,069 10 2		
To amount due to the executors of the late H. J. Prescott			25,963 0 8
Liabilities on bills receivable	69,057 9 11		
Of which it is expected there will be taken up by the drawers or endorsers	61,241 10 1		
Leaving to rank on this estate			7,815 19 10
Liabilities			£95,703 14 2

Cr.

By cash and short bills in hands of bankers			£5,108 11 8
Cash at Bank of England, &c.			58 3 6
Bills receivable on hand, expected to be duly honoured at maturity			10,682 16 4
Bills receivable on hand, the payment of which may be deferred, but which are expected ultimately to be paid in full			5,778 16 11
Debtors considered good			73,403 18 1
Ditto doubtful	£14,979 3 9		
Bills receivable on hand, doubtful ..	2,680 16 6		
	17,660 0 3		
Estimated at			6,623 10 0
Surplus from creditors, contra...			2,069 10 2
			£103,725 6 6
Less creditors under £10, and to be paid in full... ...			274 3 5
Assets			£103,451 3 3

The cash and short bills with the bankers will be retained by them until the bills which they have discounted arrive at maturity.

Pro-forma Balance Statement from January, 1847, to December 14, 1857.

Dr.				
To liabilities, as above			£95,703	14 2
Capital at commencement			48,295	18 10
Profits	£128,574	3 6		
Less charges, &c. ...	£26,740	8 1		
Less losses, &c. ...	19,061	5 7		
	45,801	13 8	82,772	9 10
			£226,772	2 10
Cr.				
By assets, as above			£103,451	3 3
Amounts drawn out by the partners			45,817	3 11
Portion of the late Mr. Prescott's capital paid to his executors ...	£30,000	0 0		
Ditto now due	25,963	0 8	55,963	0 8
Estimated losses in 1857, by doubtful and bad debts, and bills receivable			13,724	15 2
Liabilities on bills that have been dishonoured which ought to have been provided for by other parties ...			7,815	19 10
			£226,772	2 10

The estate, it will be noticed, exhibits 20*s.* in the pound, and a surplus of about £8,000. The assets and liabilities have been carefully examined, and Mr. Coleman asserts that there is every prospect of these results being realised. The operations of the house, which is of old standing and great respectability, have been conducted with prudence, and have not been based upon irregular bill transactions or open credits, which have unfortunately distinguished many other recent cases. The debts due in Sweden are connected with firms of the highest character, the trading relations of Messrs. Rew, Prescott and Co. abroad being of the most undoubted description. The profits during their trading of eleven years have amounted to £82,000, or at the rate of £7,500 a year, and the drawings of the partners have been £45,000, or at the rate of £4,150 a year, leaving £37,000 to be carried to capital. The losses during the last year, including liabilities on bills, amount to £21,540. It is proposed that Messrs. Rew, Prescott and Co. shall continue business, taking the management of their affairs entirely under their own control, and that they shall pay 20*s.* in the pound, with interest at the rate of five per cent., to the whole of their creditors. The first payment is to be 5*s.* in cash, on or before the 31st of March, 1858, with subsequent distributions, at the rate of 2*s.* in the pound, at intervals as speedy as the realisation of the assets will permit. Great sympathy was expressed for the position of the firm, and the resolutions approving of the plan of liquidation were moved by Mr. Burmester and seconded by Mr. Tottie.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. WILLIAM DRAY AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. William Dray and Co., agricultural implement makers, who failed on the 19th December, was held on the 19th January, when the following statement, prepared by Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, and Co., was presented. On the part of the debtor an offer of 10*s.* in the pound was made, and a committee of creditors was appointed to investigate and report to an adjourned meeting.

Dr.

To creditors unsecured			£41,546	5 8
Creditors holding security partly covered	£1,887 17 7			
Deduct estimated value of security	1,350 0 0			
			537	17 7
To creditors fully covered ... ... (See contra.)	4,392 4 2			
To liabilities on bills receivable, expected to become claims against the estate			547	3 0
Liabilities to bankers on overdrawn accounts, and on bills receivable, expected to become claims against the estate	£5,515 1 2			
Less estimated value of security	3,652 13 9			
			1,862	7 5
Liabilities to Deane, Dray and Co., uncertain as to amount until the partnership accounts are closed...				
Total liabilities			£44,493	13 8

Cr.

By debtors, good	£8,605 11 2			
Less 10 per cent.	860 11 0			
			7,745	0 2
Doubtful	914 17 5			
Estimated to realise			250	0 0
Bad	1,518 17 8			
Distillery accounts	4,355 2 1			
Estimated to realise			2,000	0 0
Cash in hand			180	2 0
Stock at Swan-lane and various warehouses			5,431	19 10
Stock and debts at Paris			2,460	12 10
Ditto at Vienna			350	0 0
Ditto at Farningham			2,148	17 0
Farming stock at Farningham			4,053	0 0
Horses and carts in London			501	7 8
Shares in Oxford Distillery			300	0 0
Consignments, estimated at			370	0 0
Property held by creditors	4,550 0 0			
Deduct amount of their claims ...	4,392 4 2			
			157	15 10
Lease of farm at Farningham...				
Lease of warehouse Swan-lane				
Licences of distillery patent				
			£25,948	15 4

Deduct creditors to be paid in full amount, under £5, rent, taxes, &c.			793 1 5
Total assets			£25,155 13 11

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. POWLES BROTHERS AND CO.

A MEETING of creditors of Messrs. Powles Brothers and Co., South American merchants, whose suspension was announced on the 4th of Nov., was held on the 19th of Jan., when the following balance-sheet was submitted by Mr. Moates, the accountant:—

Dr.			
To creditors unsecured			£154,441 6 7
Creditors secured—			
Claims	£18,384 6 1		
Value of security	15,267 10 0		
			3,116 16 1
To liability on bills bearing our endorsement, which will be paid by the acceptor at maturity	14,823 18 5		
To liability on bills which are expected to be proved on this estate			2,811 9 10
To liability on shares			£160,369 12 6
Cr.			
By cash in hand			£13 14 11
Bills receivable in hand, accepted			2,902 4 5
„ unaccepted ...	£6,485 0 0		
Shares			908 5 0
Book debts			62,787 12 10
Capital in firms in New Granada			26,738 18 2
			£87,350 15 4
Rent, taxes, and small debts, proposed to be paid in full			100 0 0
			£87,250 15 4
By value of private estate, estimated at			1,000 0 0
			£88,250 15 4

The dividend will thus be rather more than 10*s.* in the pound, but will depend upon the fair realisation of the assets in South America, which form a large portion of the estate. Liabilities may also accrue from Mr. Powles being a shareholder in several companies which are now in process of liquidation. It was resolved to wind up the concern under inspection.

Banking and Commercial Law.

THE LAW OF SPECIAL INDORSEMENTS ON BILLS OF EXCHANGE, PROMISSORY NOTES, AND CHEQUES.

SPECIAL indorsements are very objectionable on banking and commercial bills and documents, and are therefore avoided as much as possible, but as they do occasionally find their way into bankers' hands, some information on the subject will be useful.

A special indorsement imposes upon parties acting under it, the necessity of seeing that the money they advance or pay on the bill reaches the proper hands.

The case of *Sigourney* v. *Lloyd*, 5 Bingham's Reports, 525, is a leading authority on this question, and is an instance of the hardship of the rule and the danger of such indorsements. There the plaintiff was a merchant residing at Boston in the United States of America. The defendants were bankers in London, carrying on business under the firm of Messrs. Jones Loyd, and Co. Before the trial the parties agreed that the plaintiff should take a verdict by consent for £3,164 11*s.* 8*d.*, subject to the following case, with liberty for either party to turn it into a special verdict. This was accordingly done, with the approbation of *Lord Tenderden*, C. J., before whom the cause came on for trial. In the month of July Captain Attwood, who commanded a vessel belonging to the plaintiff, took in payment of a cargo of flour, the property of the plaintiff, which he sold at Rio Janeiro, a bill of exchange for £3,164 11*s.* 8*d.*, drawn in a set of three by March, Sealey, Walker and Co. of that place, on March, Sealey and Co. of London. This bill was payable to the order of Messrs. Hendricks, Weirss and Co., who indorsed it to Captain Attwood. The following are copies of the first and third parts of the bill:—

"£2,971, due 28th November.
"For £3,164 11*s.* 8*d.*

"Rio de Janeiro, 12th July, 1825.

"At sixty days' sight, pay this first of exchange, second and third not paid, to the order of Messrs. Hendricks, Weirss and Co., three thousand one hundred and sixty-four pounds, eleven shillings, and eightpence, value of the same, which place to account as per advice from "MARCH, SEALY, WALKER and Co."

This bill was indorsed by the payees to A. Attwood:
"For £3,164 11*s.* 8*d.*

"Rio de Janeiro, the 12th July, 1825.

"At sixty days' sight, pay this third of exchange, first and second not paid to the order of Messrs. Hendricks, Weirss and Co., three thousand one hundred and sixty-four pounds, eleven shillings, and

eightpence, value of the same, which place to account as per advice from "MARCH, SEALY, WALKER and Co."

This was indorsed by the payees to A. Attwood, by Attwood, to the plaintiff, by the latter in the following words: "Pay to Samuel Williams, Esq., of London, or his order for my use," and by Samuel Williams to Jones and Co. Attwood sent the first of the set to the correspondent of the plaintiff, Mr. Samuel Williams of London, who was an American agent and factor for merchants and planters, carrying on such business to a very great extent, inclosed in the following letter:—

"SIR,—I herewith have the honour to enclose to you the first of exchange for £3,164 11*s.* 8*d.* sterling, at sixty days' sight on Messrs. March, Sealy and Co., in London, in favour of myself, it being the proceeds of a cargo of flour in brig 'Swiftsure,' belonging to Henry Sigourney, Esq., Boston, America, which you will please to present for acceptance, and keep at the disposal of the second or third."

But he did not indorse the bill. Williams received the letter and bill on the 26th September, 1825, and procured the acceptance of the bill in due course. The third of the set was remitted to the plaintiff, and he having indorsed it as aforesaid, "Pay to Mr. Samuel Williams, or order *for my use*," remitted it to Williams in the following letter of the 17th September, 1825:—

"Captain Amaziah Attwood, of my brig 'Swiftsure,' arrived here yesterday, Rio Janeiro, whence he sailed about the — July. He informs me that he left a letter directed to you, to be forwarded to you by the next English mail, containing the first of March, Sealy, Walker and Co.'s, draft on March, Sealy and Co., London, dated 12th of July, at sixty days' sight, for £3,164 11*s.* 8*d.* sterling, in favour of Messrs. Hendricks, Weirss and Co., and by them indorsed to said A. Attwood. He thinks he did not indorse the draft, and, if received, it can only be accepted. Enclosed you have third bill of the set indorsed to me by Captain Attwood, and to yourself by me. I presume that if the other should have been previously received and accepted, that a receipt on the one now transmitted would be accepted at maturity. Have the goodness when you advise the receipt, which I trust will be as soon as possible, of the present, to inform me of the standing of the acceptors.

"HENRY SIGOURNEY."

The letter and bill were received by Williams, on the 21st October, 1826. The defendants had no notice of the before-mentioned letters of Captain Attwood, of the plaintiff. Williams stopped payment on the 24th October aforesaid, and a docket was struck against him on the 25th of the same month, upon which a commission dated the 27th of the same month was issued, and he was declared a bankrupt immediately afterwards.

At the time Williams received the bill in question, as well as at the time of his bankruptcy, the balance of account was in favour of the plaintiff, to the amount of upwards of £3,000, exclusive of the before stated bill. On the morning of the 22nd of October, when the discount hereinafter mentioned was made, the balance in favour of Williams with the defendants was £3,784 10*s.* 10*d.*, About eleven o'clock on that day Williams indorsed the bill in question, with others, amounting in the whole to £7,081 17*s.* 9*d.* to the defendants, who were his bankers, and in the habit of discounting for him very largely; and the said bills were *bonâ fide* discounted for him, and credit given to him for the amount, less the discount; and subsequently, viz., at the Clearing House, about five o'clock in the evening of that day, the defendant paid Williams's acceptances due that day to the number of thirty-two, and three drafts, amounting to £10,683 18*s.* 1*d.* The bill in question was honoured at maturity, and the amount received by the defendants on the 28th November, 1825.

After much argument, it was decided that the bankers must refund the money to Sigourney, the plaintiff. The following judgments were delivered by the Court:—

Lord Tenterden, C. J.—I am of opinion that in this case the plaintiff is entitled to recover. It appears from the report of the case of *Snee* v. *Prescott*, that in 1743 an indorsement in this form was not unusual; and it appears to have been the opinion of Lord Hardwicke in that case, and also to have been the opinion of Mr. Justice Wilmot in the case of *Edie* v. *The East India Company*, that such an indorsement will have the effect of preventing a subsequent transfer of the bill for the benefit of any other than the person for whose use it is expressed to have been made by the indorsement. The case of *Archer and others* v. *The Bank of England*, Dougl. 637, is an authority to the same effect. The indorsement was not precisely in the same form as in the present case, but the effect of it is the same. The indorsement there was:—"The within must be credited to Captain Moreton L. Dahl, value in account." An indorsement purporting to have been made by Dahl was afterwards forged, and the Bank of England discounted the bill. The acceptors did not pay it before it came due; they had failed, and one Fulgberg paid it for the honour of Archer and Co., the plaintiffs, and upon the grounds that the indorsement had restrained the negociability of the bill, they brought an action for money had and received against the bank. Lord Mansfield directed a nonsuit, but upon a rule to show cause why there should not be a new trial and cause shown, Lord Mansfield, and Justices Willes and Ashurst thought the indorsement restrictive,

and the plaintiffs were entitled to recover; but Justice Bulle thought otherwise, upon which Lord Mansfield said, the whol turned on the question whether the bill continued negociable and if they altered their opinion, they would mention the cas again; but it was never mentioned afterwards, and upon a new trial Lord Mansfield directed the jury to find for the plaintiffs which they did.

It has been said, that the indorsement "Pay to Williams for my use," is a mere direction to Williams to apply the money produced by the bill to Sigourney's use; but the words taken in that sense would be useless, for whether the words be on the face of the indorsement or not, as soon as Williams received the proceeds of the bill, he must necessarily apply them to Sigourney's use, and place them to his credit in the account between them; so that those words will have no effect whatever unless they have that of restraining the negociability of the bill or at least of making the first indorsee, (if he takes the bill with those words on it, as Williams did in this case,) a trustee for the original indorse. The case of *Evans* v. *Cramlington*, when duly considered, does not seem to me to be sufficient to countervail the authorities to which I have already adverted. The bill in that case was drawn by Cramlington upon Ryder, payable to T. Price, or his order for £500, for the use of T. Calvert. Ryder accepted but did not pay the bill; Price indorsed it to Evans for value. The latter brought an action against Cramlington the drawer; he pleaded that Calvert (who was named in the bill as the cestuique use) was an officer of the excise, and indebted to the king in such a sum, and that upon an Exchequer process at the suit of the king, this £500 was extended in his hands. To this plea there was a demurrer. It appears, therefore, that Cramlington in answer to the claim of Evans, the indorsee, set up what is sometimes denominated the jus testii, and the only question which it was necessary for the court to determine, was whether the bill being in trust only for the use of Calvert, was liable to be seized under the extent against him. The court was of opinion that it was not the proposition of Cramlington that the jus testii intervened failed entirely, and it became unnecessary to decide any other point. That case, therefore, as it seems to me, is not of sufficient weight to countervail the opinions delivered in *Snee* v. *Prescot*, *Edie* v. *The East India Company*, and *Archer* v. *The Bank of England*. The use of indorsements of this kind is not small, nor are they as it seems to me, inconsistent with the interests and convenience of commerce. Such an indorsement will not prevent the indorsee from receiving the money from the acceptor when the bill becomes due. If he pay it to his principal all will be well, but the indorsee must look to

him for the application of it. It will have the effect of preventing a failing man from disposing of the bill before it becomes due, and from pledging it to relieve himself from his own debts at the expense of his correspondent. I cannot see that the interest of commerce will be prejudiced by our holding that such an indorsement is restrictive. On the contrary, I think that the interest of commerce will thereby be advanced. It is said that it cannot be expected that bankers or others when requested to discount such bills as this should look into the accounts between the principal and his agent. I agree it cannot be expected they should; but still, if they take the bill so indorsed they take it at their peril, and must be bound by the estate of the accounts between those parties.

Justice Bailey.—The indorsement in this case is in the words "Pay to Williams or his order for my use." The question is, whether the words "for my use," have or have not any effect with reference to the bill itself. The person who remits a bill may give private directions to his correspondent in the letter in which the bill is enclosed, and if he means the directions to be private, they will be confined to the letter. But when he introduces the words "to my use" on the bill itself, he notifies to the world that he, the party indorsing, has not given to the indorsee a general unlimited authority to apply it to his own purposes, but only to apply it to the use of him the indorser.

It has been suggested that the most convenient construction to put on the words will be to hold that the indorser meant thereby to direct Williams to apply the money to his (the indorser's) use, but not to put the indorsee on his guard. My opinion is, that that is the most convenient construction which will most effectually protect the party, who appears by the form of the indorsement used by him to have thought that he required protection. It is said, why introduce the words "or order?" The purposes of the indorser may perhaps have required that the bill should be indorsed. But before any person could honestly take that bill and advance money on it, he ought, seeing the words "for my use" on the bill, to have satisfied himself from the correspondence and the state of the accounts between Sigourney and Williams, whether the latter was indorsing it for the benefit of Sigourney or for himself; and if such a person advances money upon a bill so indorsed without making such inquiry, he advances it at his peril. Now in this instance the defendants advanced money on this bill without making any inquiry, and applied the use of all that money to the use of Williams. The bill was discounted on the 22nd of October, the day after it was received; at that time Williams

had more than £3,000 in the hands of the defendants. They discounted this and other bills to the amount of £7,000, and in the course of the day all the money produced by this and other bills to the amount of £10,000 was applied to the use of Williams, so that in the afternoon of that day they had in their hands £182 only. As to the case of *Evans* v. *Cramlington*, it is sufficient to say that that case came before the Court on demurrer, and that there was no question whether there had been any misapplication of the money which had been received by means of the bill. In this case there has been a misapplication of the money by the defendants. That is a sufficient distinction between this case and that of *Evans* v. *Cramlington*. For these reasons I am of opinion that in this case the plaintiff who made the special indorsement thereby effectually protected himself, and is entitled to the judgment of the Court.

Legal Miscellany.

THE GRAVESEND AND DARTFORD BANK.—IN RE JONATHAN AND ROBERT HILLS.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Jonathan and Robert Hills, who carried on the business of bankers at Gravesend and Dartford, took place at the Court of Bankruptcy on the 19th January, before Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque, for the proof of debts and choice of assignees.

In the absence of accounts it may be stated that the debts and liabilities are estimated at about £50,000. Of this amount about one-half is owing to the Commercial Bank of London, which is alleged to be about covered by securities. The remainder is unsecured, and the prospect of anything beyond a dividend of very small or merely nominal amount for these creditors is very slight. The official assignee has, as yet, only £400 in hand, and the other assets consist mainly of mining shares and any surplus that may accrue from the securities held by the Commercial Bank. The creditors exceed 200 in number, and include the Indian Mutiny Fund (£486), the Dartford Board of Health, the Dartford Burial Board, the Gravesend Savings Bank (£264), the Gravesend and Milton Union (£551), the Gravesend Permanent Building Society (£213), the Gravesend and Milton Waterworks (£151), Milton Borough-rate (£244), the overseers of Gravesend, Milton, Bexley, Dartford, Erith, Northfleet, and a dozen other parishes; also the Dartford Union, which is returned as a creditor for £1,597.

Mr. Hilleary, who attended for the bankrupts, asked that the registrar might be permitted to attend and accept the surrender of the elder bankrupt at his residence at Gravesend. In support of his application Mr. Hilleary read an affidavit and medical certificate stating that Mr. Hills was in such a state of health as scarcely to be able to walk across the room, and showing that he was quite unable to attend at the Bankruptcy Court for the purpose of making his surrender.

Mr. Lawrence, for the assignees, assenting, the application was granted.

An allowance of £1 a week to Mr. Robert Hills, and of £3 a week to Mr. Hills, sen., was also made up to the day of examination, when, if the bankrupts did not pass, his honour said he might reduce the amounts.

Mr. Graham, the official assignee, stated that there was only £400 in hand. The assets are uncertain.

The assignees appointed were Mr. William Fletcher, coal merchant, of Gravesend; and Mr. William Allen, farmer, of Dartford.

In the course of the day creditors to the amount, in the aggregate, of about £9,000 proved their claims.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

THE COLONIAL BANK.

The half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders in this undertaking took place at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, on the 6th January, Mr. Charles Marryatt in the chair. After the usual preliminaries the secretary read the following report:—

The following statement of the debts and assets of the corporation on the 30th June, 1857, which also exhibits the amount of profit made during the half-year ending at that period, is submitted to the proprietors, in accordance with the provisions of the charter, viz.—

DEBTS.

Circulation	£291,575	17	6
Deposits and other liabilities	1,385,198	6	0
Paid-up capital	500,000	0	0
Profit	30,034	12	0
	£2,206,808	15	6

ASSETS.

Specie	£212,780	15	2
Due to the bank in the colonies on bills discounted and purchased, including those past due	771,794	19	3
Due to the bank in the colonies on current accounts ...	8,703	16	7
Due to the bank in London on bills remitted, cash at bankers', &c.	1,197,806	4	1
Bank premises and furniture in London and the colonies	5,644	2	9
Balance of bad debts	10,078	17	8
	£2,206,808	15	6

In presenting the above statement the directors have pleasure in adding that the accounts of the half-year just ended, down to the latest dates in their possession, give promise that its return of profit will be fully equal to that of the corresponding period of 1856. They therefore recommend that out of the profits of the half-year ending on the 30th June, 1857, which amount, after providing for income-tax, and for bad and doubtful debts, to £30,034 12 0

A dividend be made of 3 per cent., being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital of the corporation, which will require 15,000 0 0

Leaving	15,034	12	0
From which deduct balance of bad debts	10,078	17	8
There remains	£4,955	14	4

as the commencement of a reserve fund.

The monetary crisis which has been so severely felt, not only in this

country, but throughout Europe and America, is of such recent
that there has not yet been time to ascertain what effect it will
the bank's business, but the directors do not entertain any ap
that it can be serious; whilst, on the other hand, they cannot fla
selves that the bank will entirely escape loss.

In the meantime, they have much satisfaction in reporting
ascertained loss has been provided for, and that they will be a
meet any doubtful contingencies which may arise from recent ev
out interfering with either the dividend or the steady increase
served fund, of which the foundation has been laid this day.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, remarke
document which had been read was not quite so favourable as
which had been presented of late years. Hitherto they had bee
from year to year in a most satisfactory manner, and he adn
the accounts for the half-year, presented that day, were of a r
chequered character than those laid before the shareholders
meeting. Still he had much pleasure in reminding the proprietc
old bad debts had been entirely extinguished, and the foun
been laid for a reserve fund, and he only regretted that the s
apart for forming the reserve fund was not greater than it was (h
With regard to losses, he believed that, considering the exten
business, the wide area over which it was spread, and the large
their branches, no one was sanguine enough to believe that in t
a great commercial crisis, when all concerns had been more or le
that they should have entirely escaped loss; but considering th
of the pressure there had been, he had no hesitation in stati
thought they had escaped uncommonly well (hear, hear). He
to be able to state that everything had been done to
the greatest caution had been used in every transactior
strictest injunctions were sent to the various colonial manag
spring of the year, when the prices of West India produce ran
and speculations in sugars were rife, not to be led away by an
might take place, but to use unusual care in all their transacti
those instructions had been carried out, the result fully showe
£1,300,000 bills had come to maturity, and all had been pa
exception of about £8,000. The latter would fall on the drawers
would be felt by the company. On the whole, he thought all ought
fied with the report. It showed that while they had not altogether e
they had been put to a severe test, which had satisfactorily de
the soundness upon which their business was conducted. The
amounting at one time to £210,000, had been completely cle
books of the company; and, although the dividend had not b
large as he should have wished, still it had been a satisfactory
years, averaging 4½ to 5 per cent., and at present their positior
great promise. Their stock, which was at one time as low as 5,
and it was 30 before the late crisis, which showed the corporat
a sound and flourishing condition.

The report was put and carried unanimously.

After some words of congratulation from Mr. Helms, who said
the ordeal they had passed through had cost them half their paid
but that by good management they had attained a most favoural

On the motion of the chairman, a dividend at the rate of
on the paid-up capital for the half-year ending the 30th June,
at the rate of 6 per cent. for the year), free of income-tax, and
the 12th inst., was declared.

A vote of thanks was then passed to the chairman, and the
closed.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

The fourteenth half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of New South Wales, was held at the banking house in Sydney, on the 28th day of October last; Sir Daniel Cooper presided.

The report of the directors was read and adopted unanimously :—

The directors beg to lay before the proprietors the balance-sheet of the bank for the half-year ended 30th ultimo, and have to congratulate them on the continued prosperity of the corporation.

The undivided balance of last half-year was	£1,423	6	1
To which are to be added the nett profits, after deducting rebate on current bills, paying all expenses of management, providing for all bad and doubtful debts, and making allowance in reduction of bank premises and office fittings	63,483	12	7
Leaving for distribution	£64,906	18	8

Which the directors recommend to be appropriated as follows :—

To payment of dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum	£50,000	0	0
To increase of reserve fund	9,802	12	3
To balance carried to profit and loss (new account) ...	5,104	6	5
	£64,906	18	8

With the above increase to the reserve fund, and the sum of £197 7*s.* 9*d.* recovered from debts previously written off as bad, that fund will amount to £150,000.

Since the last half-yearly meeting the directors have established a branch at Ararat—the newly discovered gold field of Victoria,—and they consider it desirable that the authority to open such branches or agencies as may be deemed expedient be continued to them during the present half-year.

It will be the duty of the present meeting to elect a director in the room of Robert Tooth, Esq., and an auditor in the room of James Milson, Esq., jun., who both retire by rotation. Frederick Tooth, Esq., and James Milson, Esq., jun., are candidates for the first named office.

The dividend will be payable at the head office on and after to-morrow, the 29th instant, and at the branches upon receipt of advice.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

DANIEL COOPER, *President.*

Aggregate Balance-sheet of the Bank of New South Wales, 30th September, 1857, including London Branch to 30th June, 1857.

Dr.

To bank stock	£500,000	0	0
Notes in circulation	681,946	0	0
Bills payable	1,408,754	3	1
Deposits and other liabilities	2,314,510	14	5
Reserve fund	140,127	7	2
Profit and loss	83,014	6	3
	£5,128,422	11	6

Cr.

By coin and cash balances	£795,875	17	2
Bullion in hand and in transit to London Branch, 30th September, 1857	1,261,502	3	2
Government securities	200,348	9	2
Notes of other banks	31,510	0	0
Bank premises	47,898	3	8
Bills discounted and other debts due to the bank ...	2,660,242	10	9
Insurance account	6,745	7	7
Investment in Government debentures on account of reserved fund	124,800	0	0
	£5,128,422	11	6

PROFIT AND LOSS.

Dr.

To rebate on bills discounted and not due at this date (September 30th, 1857)	£18,107	7	7
Dividend for the half-year at the rate of £20 per cent. per annum	50,000	0	0
Reserve fund	9,802	12	3
Balance carried forward to profit and loss, new account	5,104	6	5
	£83,014	6	3

Cr.

By amount from last account, March 31st, 1857 ...	£1,423	6	1
Profits of half-year ending this day, September 30th	81,591	0	2
	£83,014	6	3

RESERVE FUND.

Dr.

To balance (September 30th, 1857)	£150,000	0	0

Cr.

By amount from last account, March 31st, 1857 ...	£140,000	0	0
Sundry recoveries from bad debts (September 30th) ...	197	7	9
Amount from profit and loss	9,802	12	3
	£150,000	0	0

J. MILSON, Jun., E. C. WEEKES, } Auditors.

Audited, 26th October, 1857.

Mr. Frederick Tooth was elected a director in the room of Mr. Robert Tooth, who retired by rotation; and Mr. Thomas Walker was elected auditor in the room of Mr. James Milson, jun., who also retired by rotation.

THE CITY OF GLASGOW BANK.

An adjourned meeting of the shareholders of the City of Glasgow Bank was held on Tuesday, December 8, in the Merchants' Hall. Mr. A. Orr occupied the chair.

Mr. Lowe, secretary, read the following report by the committee appointed at the meeting of the shareholders of the City of Glasgow Bank, held at Glasgow on the 1st of December, 1857, of which we had only space to give a brief summary in our last number:—

"At the meeting of shareholders held this date (1st of December) it was agreed 'That the directors and the acting committee of shareholders be authorised to appoint a committee, consisting of two shareholders and five other gentlemen unconnected with the bank, to investigate the books and affairs of the bank and to report forthwith;' and that of the five gentlemen unconnected with the bank three should be merchants and two professional accountants.

"In terms of this result the following gentlemen were forthwith nominated by the committee to carry out the resolutions come to at the meeting, viz., Mr. Lewis Potter and Mr. Jas. Mackenzie, shareholders; the Hon. Andrew Galbraith, Lord Provost of Glasgow; Mr. John Houldsworth, and Mr. Wm. West Watson, merchants; Mr. William Anderson, accountant in Glasgow; and Mr. Henry Callender, accountant in Edinburgh.

"The committee thus appointed think it right to state at the outset that, although they have had only a very short time (the period being limited to a week) to complete the arduous and responsible task committed to them, they have made as thorough an investigation into the company's books and affairs as they could possibly be expected to do under the circumstances, and they feel satisfied that the results brought out are substantially correct.

"The committee have, with the assistance of the bank's officers, gone carefully over the cash credit accounts, and deposit of current accounts, and the past due and current bills negotiated at the head office in Glasgow, and with regard to similar accounts kept at the branches throughout the country, they have examined the monthly reports for November, assisted by the bank's inspector of branches, the agents' reports containing specific information as to the position of the parties doing business with the bank.

"From those various accounts the committee have made such deductions as in the circumstances they considered just and reasonable, and they have framed a balance-sheet giving effect to such deductions, to which they beg leave to refer the shareholders.

"With reference to the deductions thus made the committee may state that in many cases the sums written off by them were considered to be much more considerable than the circumstances of the individual cases required; but the committee considered they exercised a sound discretion in acting as they did, while at the same time they are of opinion that the bank, in resuming business, will not ultimately suffer loss to the extent of the deductions now made. The committee may add that, in all cases of doubt as to the sufficiency of parties, such information was obtained as time and circumstances allowed. The sums deducted under this head amounted to £90,815 7*s.* 6*d.*, of which about £32,000 appeared to be attached to firms which have recently suspended payment.

"The committee have further to report that in dealing with a sum of £355,704 9*s.* 5*d.* standing in the bank's books, under the head of 'general securities,' consisting of railway and other stock debenture falling to the bank during a series of many years, they have not thought it right or

necessary to value these securities, but have reduced the amount to a sum corresponding to a return of 3½ per cent., which the committee consider to be above the average rate of interest on bank deposits. The deductions thus effected amount to £111,990 3*s.* 9*d.* The bulk of these securities, it appears to the committee, should have been taken cognizance of years ago and the deficiency brought out spread over many periodical balances, in place of telling thus severely on the present investigation.

"From the balance-sheet above referred to, it will be seen that the result come to shows a balance of assets over liabilities amounting to £651,892 16*s.* 9*d.*; but it may be stated that the particulars from which this result has been obtained, do not embrace a sum of £15,640 12*s.* 4*d* contained in a profit and loss account at the credit of the shareholders for interest, &c., accruing on the funds of the bank since their last half-yearly report was framed.

"The committee have not been able to overtake the detailed examination of this profit and loss account, but, from the general accuracy with which the books and other statements exhibited to them have been kept the committee have no doubt that the figures are correctly given.

"With regard, more particularly, to the shareholders' account, the committee find that it stands as follows:—

Total number of shares issued			97,50
Deduct shares which have fallen into the hands of the bank ...			22,96
Remaining shares in the hands of the public			74,51
The value of these shares taken at par amounts to ...		£745,110 0	
To meet which there is the balance of assets	£551,892 16 9		
Add balance on profit and loss account ...	15,640 12 4		
		667,533 9	
Deficiency		£77,576 10 1	

"In conclusion, the committee have to state that during the whole course of the investigation thus made into the bank's affairs, every facility has been afforded them by the officers of the establishment in conducting it and bringing it to a conclusion."

The following statement of assets and liabilities was submitted to the meeting:—

ASSETS.

1. Cash in hand		£156,944 19	
2. Government stocks and Exchequer-bills		3,996 17	
3. Stamps		2,604 18	
4. Heritable property and furniture at head office and branches		68,434 2	
5. Balances due by other banks		369,321 5	1
6. Bills current at the head office and branches		2,207,094 13	
7. Overdue bills at head office and branches	£214,443 16 1		
Deduction from overdue bills and bills current, the drawers of which have suspended payments	46,714 9 3		
		167,729 6	1
8. Bills for collection at branches		46,108 17	
Carried forward ...		£3,022,234 19	

	Brought forward ...			£3,022,234	19 6
9. Balances or overdrawn accounts at head offices or branches				235,887	6 6
10. Balances on credit accounts at head offices and branches ...	£1,649,406	0	0		
Less deduction therefrom	44,100	18	3		
				1,605,305	4 9
11. General securities	£355,704	9	5		
Less deduction therefrom	111,990	3	9		
				243,714	5 8
				£5,107,142	3 5

LIABILITIES.

1. Bank-notes in the hands of the public, and other banks	£325,800	0	0
2. Deposits at head offices and branches	3,335,186	1	4
3. Bills accepted on account of home customers ...	54,126	4	4
4. Bills accepted on account of foreign customers	304,071	11	4
5. Sums due to various banks	84,559	4	7
6. Bills lodged	48,506	5	0
Balance	651,892	16	9
	£5,107,142	3	5

The chairman then rose, and, after some preliminary observations, said, —The principal feature that I would wish to call your attention to, is that the report states that we are £70,000 short of our capital. Now, this does not reconcile with the statement formerly made to you, that our capital was entire and our rest entire; but, as was then explained,—and as you, being almost all of you here in the room mercantile men, will easily understand, —in looking at the present value of collateral securities of the kind held by banks at a moment of depreciation such as at present, the estimate thus arrived at cannot fairly be held as their natural value. Still, we do not complain that the gentlemen who have looked into this have done it in such a way that it will bear the strictest scrutiny, and therefore I will only offer explanations on these heads. From this report it is made to appear that we are £170,000 short of what the directors formerly stated. This amount is made up of the depreciation on £358,000 on railway and other such securities, held by the bank as securities for debts due by parties. Upon that account the gentlemen of the committee strike off £113,000 to reduce them to their present value, and upon another class of securities of the same kind they strike off £44,000, which in all makes about £150,000. If these were brought instantly to sale the reduction in value would be as represented, but we all know that in the hands of the bank they produced 3½ per cent., and that they can thus be held with profit. Our belief is that almost the entire amount of this may be saved by the bank continuing to hold that property. This explains the position we stand in on that head. Another matter I would wish to touch very lightly upon, now that this bank appears to be solvent, though blown over by a terrific hurricane, in the shape of want of commercial confidence over the entire community, which reduced it almost to the position of insolvency, and the goodwill of whose business would vanish at the same moment with that goodwill which is acted upon by one bank to another, and the benefit of whose depositors and circulation would be all lost were a winding up to take place,

and that is, that in the event of its resuming business there will be a difference of from £2 to £3 on the value of the £10 share. (Applause.) I beg to move that the report which has just been read be received.

Sir W. Dunbar seconded the proposition.

Mr. Dunlop moved,—"That the thanks of this meeting be given to the committee of shareholders who were appointed by the meeting to coöperate with the directors, and that the same gentlemen be requested to continue their coöperation with the directors for some time to come."

An amendment was suggested for the appointment of a committee to cooperate with the directors till the next annual meeting in July, but ultimately the resolution, as originally moved by Mr. Dunlop, was carried by acclamation.

The chairman then moved,—"That this meeting, recognising the importance of the impartial inquiry into the affairs of the bank, as detailed in the report which has been the subject of consideration, beg to tender their best acknowledgments to the committee of investigation, collectively and individually, for their valuable services, and authorise the directors to communicate the same to the committee."

The motion was adopted by acclamation.

Mr. Carswell moved,—"That from the report of the committee, this meeting is satisfied that the affairs of the bank are such as to warrant an immediate resumption of business; and that for this purpose the directors and the committee of shareholders be instructed to take the necessary steps."

Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. He said,—The "necessary steps" referred to, I should say, are that the shareholders should assist as much as they can the guarantee fund. We have obtained subscriptions to the amount of £150,000 to the guarantee fund already—and if we can get anything like half a million that will be enough. It is a mere guarantee fund, and does not increase the risk of the shareholders. For my own part, I do not much care whether I put down £50,000, or £10,000, or £500, for we are liable for every deficiency; it is a mere form, which the Bank of England will require, if we are to obtain a loan from them. I think the shareholders should come forward liberally, for if we can but make a beginning, it is perfectly evident that we have the sympathies of the community with us, and shall obtain their support.

Sir W. Dunbar—I would remind you, gentlemen, that we have still a very large capital left, even supposing that the losses written down as against this company are experienced. Observe that we still stand with a capital of £670,000—a capital considerably beyond the trading capital of many other banking institutions which carry on a very large business, both in London and in Scotland. (Cheers.) This is a very important fact to bear in mind. I find that the signatures to the guarantee fund already amount to £150,000, and to the deposit fund £70,000; so that, you observe, we are still far below the mark. You will see, therefore, the absolute necessity for every shareholder coming forward and working together for the resuscitation of an undertaking in which all have individually so great an interest. I hope, then, that before the meeting breaks up every shareholder will put his name to the document lying on the table. (Cheers.)

The chairman—In addition to what Sir W. Dunbar has so admirably stated as to the necessity of the shareholders individually aiding the bank, I may say, as will be apparent to every gentleman here, that the deposit fund is a fund whereby you may deposit in the bank from £50 to £50,000, which will be perfectly secured to you at four months' call. I may also explain what is meant by the guarantee fund. In applying to the

Bank of England for a loan, we would, of course, offer securities. These securities would be bills of the bank, but in addition to this the Bank of England requires personal security; and these personal securities will only be fallen back upon when the bills are exhausted, so that the risk is nothing. The personal security in our case would be a mere form. If, however, the shareholders but deposit with us £500,000, which is the simplest way, we can open at once without any other aid.

Mr. Smith expressed his general satisfaction with the whole proceedings, and his confidence in the directors.

The chairman then announced that the business was concluded, and invited gentlemen to come forward to the table and adhibit their signatures to the deposit and guarantee funds.

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

THE half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors in this bank was held at the company's offices, Old Broad-street, on Monday, January 11th; Mr. J. J. Cummins in the chair.

At the request of the chairman the secretary (Mr. Saunders) read the advertisement convening the meeting, and also the following supplemental report of the directors:—

"The directors have to report that the profit of the bank for the half-year ending in the colonies on 30th June, and in London on 31st December last, after deduction of all bad debts, amounts to £98,338 5*s.* 11*d.*; from which sum they have deemed it prudent to make a further reserve of £10,000 for doubtful dependencies.

"The advices from the inspectors reach down to the beginning of November, and are very satisfactory to the directors, indicating as they do the constant and judicious watchfulness of those gentlemen over all the interests committed to their care, and the precautions they have taken to guard against the dangers which are continually occurring in the extending commerce of the colonies.

"Some failures have taken place during the six months reported on, from which the bank has suffered in a small degree.

"The demand for money has been more than usually active, arising in great measure from the enhanced value of some of the leading articles of eastern produce imported, but traceable also to the requirements for public works undertaken or promoted by the colonial governments, which promise considerable improvement to internal communication, and much future benefit to these rapidly increasing countries.

"Branches of this bank have been established at the gold fields of Ballarat, Sandhurst, and Ararat, in Victoria, and are working very satisfactorily. The inspectors have under consideration some other localities, at one or two of which branches may shortly be opened. The trade of New Zealand has much increased, and the business of the bank there is steadily advancing.

"Under these circumstances, and having regard to the general expansion of the bank's business, the directors have resolved that it is expedient to call up the unpaid capital of the shares of the third issue. They have, therefore, fixed the following periods and amounts for the calls on these shares; viz.:—£7 10*s.* per share on the 1st of February next; £5 per share on the 1st of April next; £5 per share on the 1st of July next; and £5 per share on the 1st of October next.

"The statement of accounts now submitted to the proprietors presents an

amount of available profit for the six months reported on of £88,338 5*s.* 11*d.*; from which £2,957 13*s.* 2*d.* has been deducted for income tax paid; leaving £85,380 12*s.* 9*d.* for division. This admits of £82,000 being appropriated for the purpose of dividend, which the directors have determined to apply as interest on the paid-up capital; and the same will furnish a dividend, by way of interest, of 10 per cent. for the half-year on the amount paid up in respect of each share in the capital of the company, payable in London, free of income tax, on the 26th inst., and in the colonies, with the addition of income tax, as soon as the inspectors shall fix after the receipt of advices."

Loud and general applause followed the reading of this report.

The secretary then read the statement of liabilities and assets at the branches on the 30th June, 1857; and at the London office on the 31st December, 1857:—

LIABILITIES.

Circulation	£473,559	0	0
Deposits	2,582,541	13	7
Bills payable and other liabilities...	1,262,089	14	1
Balance of undivided profits	86,763	1	2
Reserve fund (invested as per contra)	200,000	0	0
Paid-up capital	820,000	0	0
	£5,424,953	8	10

ASSETS.

Specie on hand, and cash balances	£870,427	6	11
Bullion	10,031	4	1
Bank premises and property	72,784	13	10
Bills receivable, government stock, and other securities	4,271,710	4	0
Investment of reserve fund, New Three per Cents. ...	200,000	0	0
	£5,424,953	8	10

STATEMENT OF PROFITS.

Balance of undivided profits at June, 1857				£79,282	8	5
Out of which a dividend was declared, by way of interest, amounting to				77,900	0	0
Leaving a balance of				1,382	8	5
To which are now to be added the profits of the past half-year, as reported ...	£88,338	5	11			
Deduct:						
Income tax for half-year	2,957	13	2			
				85,380	12	9
Balance of undivided profits				£86,763	1	2

RESERVE FUND.

As reported at June, 1857	£200,000	0	0

The chairman said,—Gentlemen, for the first time since this bank was established, we meet you able to state that our communications from our branches, and from the colonies, come down to within less than two months

of the present day. (Cheers.) Our dates are to the 11th and 14th of November. We can, consequently, furnish you with a clearer statement of the actual position of the bank than ever we could on any former occasion; and I do hope that we have not reached the end of those improvements, but that we may yet witness the lapse of a shorter period between the dates of our latest advices and the time when you are addressed from this chair (hear, hear). How far that may enable us with advantage to make a nearer approach in the payment of our dividends to the April and October dividends of the government accounts remains to be considered. The directors will keep the subject in view, and when further improvements are effected they will endeavour to present it to you in as satisfactory a manner as possible. A peculiar feature of the report which you have just heard read is the proposal to call up the capital on the third series of shares. That capital, it will be recollected, was voted by the proprietors in the year 1841; and at that time the bank was in this position. We had scarcely any competition abroad. One Australian bank, established in London, and having a capital of a million sterling, represented, I may say, all the actual competition that we had to experience; at least the greater part of it, irrespective of the local banks, which had their connection and capital. Then, too, as you are aware, there had been no gold discoveries. Now, those gold discoveries have created a vast increase of business, but they have also called into existence a very large number of competing banks, the new capital of which has in a great degree filled up the channels of the banking trade from that period down to the present time. Our bank has gone on increasing in a degree, perhaps, that you are scarcely aware of, in regard to its branches and its business. The branches that we had at that time were six in number, and were established at Sydney, Bathurst, Melbourne, Hobart Town, Launceston, and Wellington, New Zealand. Since that, we have opened in 1842 a branch at Nelson, New Zealand; in 1843, at Geelong, Victoria; in 1847, at Portland, Victoria; in 1848, at Auckland, New Zealand; in 1849, at Adelaide, South Australia; in 1851, at Lyttleton, New Zealand; in 1853, at Goulbourne, New South Wales; in 1854, at Brisbane, New South Wales; in 1857, at Ballarat, Sandhurst, and Ararat, all of which are branches at the Victoria gold diggings; and, as reported in July last, at Christ Church and Dunedin, in New Zealand. Altogether we have 20 branches, and our inspectors have just acquainted us that they have very nearly fixed upon two other places for additional branches. It will be known to those of you who are conversant with the state of business in Australia that the branches at the gold diggings have generally supplied themselves with capital; but our branches in New Zealand which are rapidly increasing are in a very different position. We have undertaken to pay off the circulation of the Government bank in New Zealand, an institution which was opened under the authority of the Colonial Office at home, but which authority, after a few years' experiment, has now been withdrawn. We have, therefore, to provide the basis of a large operation in that rising colony. We have had the enjoyment, and I hope we shall continue to have it, of the Government accounts there, and also of a very improving state of business. These circumstances have led to such an expansion of our trade as fairly to demand an increase of the basis upon which it rests; and, in the exercise of the trust you have committed to us, we believe that the time is now fully come when we should call for that portion of the capital which was voted by the proprietors in 1841, but which circumstances have hitherto enabled us to do without until the present day. I need hardly remind you that the condition of the issue of that portion of the capital was this—that £2 10*s.* should be called as then provided,

and that the remainder should await the call of the directors when business of the bank required it. (Hear, hear.) That time is now arri (Hear, hear). The general business of the colonies, I think I need scar say, after the dividend we propose to pay, and the amount of the pr we have made for many years past, is a very large and important busin (Hear, hear.) In such a great commercial community as is now grow in the colonies there must be fluctuations in trade, and probably what have witnessed at home may in some degree be seen abroad. It is known to every one in this country how easily a period of expansion be followed by a period of serious contraction; and how much of exer is required on the part of those who have the management of monetary affairs of the country to stop the exit of the precious met and to turn the current into the rest and accumulation of those met The pressure here created by that effort we are all acquainted w Happily in London this bank has met with no loss whatever. (Chee Whether from the deposit of bills, from bill-brokers, or from any ot source connected with the recent calamities this bank has not suffe one sixpence loss. (Loud cheers.) Now, I have adverted to the perio crisis rather with this view, to assure you that, in my judgment, and I lieve in the judgment of my co-directors generally, it is almost impossi that any such results as we have experienced in this country can arise the Australian colonies, so long as nearly one million a month of the p cious metals is found to flow into their great emporiums of trade fr the gold diggings. (Hear, hear.) Let us just imagine for a mom what would be the result here, if, instead of having to contract our tra in order to get back the gold which had gone forth to every part of world, we had in Wales and Cornwall tens of thousands of people gather gold, all ready to buy up the commodities in the London markets, pouring in that gold by a weekly escort. You perceive at once that could not possibly require the amount of effort to increase our deposi the precious metals that is now required with our immensely exten commerce. Yet that is the case in the Australian colonies; and so long they have at their back that vast resource of the gold discoveries and gold produce, so long do I believe that whatever check there may be will be but momentary, and that these colonies will come out of it w increased strength, and with very little proportionate evil or loss. I thou it well to call attention to this subject, because in our report we say th are dangers which surround every banking establishment in the busines these colonies, and I do not mean to conceal from the meeting that we th there may be some check when the failures of great houses in this coun connected with the colonies become known there. At the same time own strong expectation is that the effects will be so small as to be scarc felt in the future profits of any of the banks. (Cheers.) Having touc upon these points it is only necessary for me to remark that we have the greatest satisfaction in tracing the reports which have been made to by our two inspectors. As already intimated to you, the reports of inspectors have been marked by a degree of accurate observation of whole state of our business, and of the general affairs of the colonies, wh gives us the highest satisfaction. The result, indeed, has tended to st the necessity of widening the basis of our capital; but I believe that doing that we are studying the future interests of the bank, and I sho even hope that that extension, being only as it were the increase of s corn, will be amply remunerated by the future harvest you will re (Cheers.) I am now ready to answer any inquiries which the proprie may wish to make.

A proprietor said that at the last meeting of the company it was stated that they had altogether sustained a loss of £54,000. Having been in the colonies himself, and knowing what difficulty there was in raising money without good security, he could hardly think that the servants of the bank would advance so much as £54,000, unless upon some security. Perhaps the chairman would inform the meeting whether any and what portion of that sum had been recovered.

The chairman—Some of it has been recovered, but more has been added; and with the large business which you are carrying on there you must expect, as every other bank must expect, to make a certain accumulation of loss. Recollect we are paying £200,000 a year profits, including income tax. (Hear, hear.) That is not to be earned without certain risks in business in any part of the world. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Richardson—It was stated eighteen months or two years ago that property had fallen into the hands of the bank at Victoria to the amount of £30,000, and that it was expected to form a portion of the profits of the bank. He should like to know if that property had been realised, and if so, whether it appeared in the profits of the bank? The statement which had been made by the chairman with respect to the £60,000 contingent fund, as a set-off against dependencies, was, he thought, a very satisfactory one. (Hear, hear.) But there was another point relating to the bank premises to which he desired to call the attention of the directors. He observed that a considerable alteration had been made in that item since the last half-yearly statement, when it was put down at £59,000. It now stood at £72,000; but from all he could learn the premises were worth at least £100,000. (Hear, hear.)

The chairman—On the first question I have to state that during the excitement occasioned by the gold discoveries a property did come into our hands arising out of an old bad debt, which we had written off as bad, and which was estimated as worth £30,000. Some legal difficulties intervened, just as is the case in many instances with property at home, and we were kept out of the legal title about two years, and when all the doubts were removed, and it became quite saleable, it was sold, but instead of producing £30,000 it produced little over £7,000, which was carried to the then arising bad debt account, forming a portion of the £60,000 of which we have been speaking. As regarded the bank premises, notwithstanding the additions which had been made to them, the board were not willing to estimate them at a higher amount than that given. It should be recollected that some of the colonial buildings were unavoidably of a very perishable nature.

Mr. Whiting wished to know what would be the gross amount of the additional capital.

The chairman—£180,000.

Mr. Whiting did not understand why so large an addition was required, and, as an old proprietor, deprecated a needless extension of capital, which would make a difference of £36,000 a year in the amount divisible from the present business. He complained that in this matter the new proprietors would benefit at the expense of the old.

The chairman said, in considering that subject the old proprietors should not forget the large amount of profit which had gone into their pockets, because the directors had felt that they could do without any additional capital. (Hear, hear.) He had taken a prominent part in vindicating the refusal to call up the new capital on the ground of the original contract under which the shares were issued; but he should find it impossible to justify a continued refusal, when the capital was required by an extension of business

On the motion of Mr. George Gay, seconded by Mr. Whiting, the report was adopted unanimously.

The chairman then moved a resolution authorising the directors to call up the unpaid capital on the third series of shares at the times and in the manner proposed by the report; and explained that the instalments payable in February and April would be entitled to participate in the dividend next Christmas, and those payable in July and October, at Midsummer, 1859.

A shareholder inquired whether the company had sustained any loss by the fire at Port Adelaide, intelligence of which had just been received?

The chairman said their loss did not exceed a few hundred pounds. Everything except the fittings was saved. The house was rented.

The motion, after having been seconded, was put and carried; and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and the other directors.

THE UNITY BANK.

The usual half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Unity Bank was held on the 15th January, at the London Tavern, Mr. Mechi, the governor, in the chair.

The following report was read:—

The directors present to the shareholders a statement of the affairs and condition of the bank for the period between the 30th of April and 31st of December, 1857. At the last meeting the past due bills amounted to about £12,000, and the directors were led to believe that the losses on these would not be heavy. Some of these bills having, however, been badly realised, and, in addition, a considerable loss having arisen on other bills and loans, which clearly indicated unsuccessful management, the directors felt it necessary to make changes in some of the principal departments of the bank, substituting gentlemen who had proved themselves better qualified for the conduct of banking business. By this arrangement a large sum will be annually economised in salaries, and it is expected that bad debts will, by improved management, be reduced to a very moderate amount. In order that the shareholders may know the exact position of the bank, every overdue bill has been carefully valued, and the result shown in the balance-sheet. By this valuation the shareholders will be able to judge of the future half-yearly balance-sheet under the new management. The most rigid economy has been effected in every department, and the governor and directors have postponed the receipt of their own remuneration until the business of the bank has shown a profitable result. It is gratifying to know that in face of all the adverse circumstances which the bank has had to encounter the number of its customers has not diminished, as might have been expected. In the month of November last the directors submitted, in confidence, to a committee of six of the largest shareholders, the books, securities, and concerns of the bank. All the suggestions made to the directors by that committee are being acted upon. The members of the committee are present at this meeting. The directors have registered the bank under the new Act, 20th and 21st Vict., c. 49. The directors feel confident that the greatly diminished expenditure during the next half year, aided by the improved management, will leave a surplus of profit.

The following is the balance-sheet for the half-year:—

Dr.

To shareholders' paid-up capital			£150,000	0 0
Amount due on current and other accounts			139,774	10 11
Profit and loss, balance brought from last account	£2,415	4 10		
Less interest at 3 per cent. paid on capital, as per resolution at general meeting	2,038	8 11		
			376	15 11
Profit, after payment of interest to customers... ...			8,038	11 10
Total ...			£298,189	18 8

Cr.

By preliminary expenses, as per last report	£28,882	15 5		
By annual payment to Mr. T. H. Baylis (which will cease in 1859)	1,000	0 0		
			£29,882	15 5
By investments, bank premises, freehold at Brighton, &c..			26,796	9 9
By bills discounted and loans to customers...			141,481	17 4
By past due bills			*40,559	8 0
By current expenses at chief office and branches :—				
Repairs, &c.	47	14 2		
Advertising	352	1 4		
Salaries	4,698	8 8		
House expenses	262	19 10		
Incidentals...	226	6 2		
Law charges	1,071	12 2		
Postage	48	3 6		
Rent and taxes	2,992	5 8		
Stationery	313	15 4		
Travelling	62	3 4		
Loss on Watford premises	54	9 9		
			10,129	19 11
By cash in hand			49,339	8 3
Total			£298,189	18 8

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.

To current expenses at chief office and branches	£10,129 19 11

Cr.

By profit, after payment of interest to customers	£8,038 11 10
By balance of profit and loss, last account...	376 15 11
By balance carried forward	1,714 12 2
	£10,129 19 11

* Of this amount the directors feel confident that £11,000 will be recovered; but as the affairs of the acceptors of several of the bills are either under investigation in the Court of Bankruptcy or being wound up under inspection, they have deferred writing off any portion until the correct amount that will be realised can be ascertained.

"We, the undersigned, have examined the foregoing balance-sheet, and, compared the items it comprises with the several books and vouchers relating thereto, and have found the same to be correct.

(Signed) "WILLIAM GOULD, } Auditors.
W. S. AUSTIN, }

"Unity-buildings, Jan. 8, 1858."

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that it was necessary in the first place to convince the shareholders of the unspotted integrity of the directors. Some six or seven weeks ago, during the panic, the directors called in the aid of a committee of the larger shareholders, to whom they submitted the books of the bank, and they would be there that day to tell them the result of their examination. One of that committee (Mr. Cuthbert) was present. The next question related not to the past state, but to the future prospects of the bank. If he and his brother directors thought it could not be carried on with a prospect of success it would be their duty at once to wind up; but such a proceeding would involve a loss of the property of the shareholders, and they were therefore called upon to state why they felt that ultimately this institution would pay a good dividend. The causes that had hitherto prevented the success of the bank were two-fold:—First, the great expenditure, touching upon extravagance; and, in the second place, the great loss by bad debts. He did not mean to attach blame to those gentlemen who had left their service, or to accuse them of any impropriety of conduct—far from it; he believed them to be men of unspotted integrity; but he could not but bear in mind, and he was sorry to say it, that they had been singularly unsuccessful in having contracted a large amount of bad debts. There could be no doubt that a loss of £30,000 by bad debts in a year and a half was an unmistakeable sign of bad management. That amount of loss had not been wholly caused by Mr. Chambers. At the chief office the past due bills were £34,800. At the West-end branch, under Mr. Ryle, the past due bills were £4,462; at Brighton, £117; at Pimlico, £1,122; a trifling loss of £6 at Waterford, and no loss at all at Hertford. By the new arrangements which they had made with respect to their officers they would effect a saving of £1,700 a year in salaries. These gentlemen had been selected from their own staff; they had been tried, and he did hope that their management would be found more successful than their predecessors' had been. During the last five months the loss from over-due bills (which must be deducted from the sum of £34,000, to which he had already alluded) was only £700 at the chief offices and the branches, and the loss the directors estimated to accrue from them was only £300. If the average of losses with their present deposits was more than £1,000 a year, it would be a proof of bad management. Then with regard to the expenditure. The future expenditure of the bank should not exceed £8,500, including the enormous rent which they now had to pay, and which he hoped to see reduced by £1,500 a year by letting parts of the premises, and with a further reduction of £1,000 by the cessation of the payment to Mr. Baylis. That would reduce the expenditure to £6,000. He called upon the manager to say whether that would yield a profit with the present receipts of the bank?

Mr. Terry (the manager) said that according to the balance-sheet the profits for the last eight months were £1,000 per month, or £8,000. The expenditure for the eight months was £10,120. For the next six months, the business yielding the same rate of profit, £6,000; the expenditure for the same time, at the reduced scale, being £4,250, would leave a profit of £1,750 in favour of the bank.

accounts to the lowest possible amount until they saw the exact
f the bank. In order to see that every man who came for his
ring the last few months received it on demand, they had been
keep in hand a much larger amount of money than it was usual
han was necessary under ordinary circumstances in order to con-
king operations properly. With a limited deposit of £150,000
kept no less than £50,000 in ready money by them, which was a
ne-third of the deposits. There was one question on which he was
o speak. He believed that at the present moment no director but
was in debt to the bank except one, who owed a sum of £400, also
cured. Now, with regard to himself, he must say that he did not
himself to be under any obligation to the bank. He would not
to be treated, nor was he treated, otherwise than as the least
l of their customers. The circumstances under which he became
l to the bank were these:—When the Royal British Bank failed a
of shareholders threw their shares on the market, and it was the
of the then manager, Mr. Chambers, and others, that if the depre-
in the shares went on all the money would be drawn out of the
This was when the bank was but four months old, and when he
he bank could not interfere. He held sixty shares independent of
rd, but he said to them, "I will place ample security in your hands
e shares." This was when the question came as to who was to incur
onsibility. To prevent this evil he himself undertook the responsi-
f purchasing shares on his account. But in order to cover this he
ed the shares and ample security to cover any loss on them with the
Now that he had got rid of the shrievalty and of his engagements at
st-end, he had no doubt that he should be able to spare £3,000
to redeem those shares, and it was his intention to do so. For he
wish to sell them, but to hand them down to his children, believing
ey would eventually prove a good and valuable property. With
to the branch banks, they were nearly all paying their expenses,
managers were proper for their places. The bank had come into
y without prestige; and in new institutions of this kind people
forward for accommodation. (Hear.) This would, in some measure,
for the large amount of bad debts. (Hear, hear.) Besides all this

were put down at nearly £29,000, that was a reckless expenditure which no individual ought to countenance. When they took into consideration the fact of the late failures to the extent of £50.000,000, or £60,000,000, and that those houses had recourse to the discounting houses in London, and that the discounting houses again appealed to the banks, it would easily be seen how this must affect their operations, especially when rumours were afloat that their bank was going to close in a week, or that they would not keep open their doors for three weeks. They had passed all this ordeal, and the remedy was to give all the support in their power to the bank, in order to show that they all had confidence in its stability. He should further observe that, nothwithstanding all the rumours, they had this year gained one fresh customer every day. He begged to second the adoption of the report. (Hear. hear).

Mr. Hinde, of Manchester, said it was not a pleasing task to stand forth in opposition to a body of gentlemen; but when such a step was necessary some one should do it. (Hear, hear). He had perfect confidence in the chairman, in his integrity and honour, and the shareholders were deeply indebted to him for his noble conduct in saving the bank. (Hear, hear). But there were some men on the board who were not, he thought, the men they wanted. (Hear, hear). He thought that no gentleman connected with the life or fire offices should be on the board of the bank. (Hear, hear). He was but a small shareholder, but he thought the "alliance" an unholy one. (Laughter). Had they all confidence in the board of directors? (No, no.) Then why should they pass the report? (Hear, hear). The Manchester people liked profit and not loss. (Hear, hear). He believed they had more than one Jonah in the ship. The directors were here the Jonah, and were responsible for the loss. Who was the responsible person in such a case? Was it the person who acted for others or those who directed him? The directors were the parties to blame, and to this fact the shareholdors should turn their attention. Let them not suffer dust to be thrown in their eyes. Let them not come there with a bad feeling and go away with it. Let them not depart before they had taken measures to give the bank more strength, and to imbue the public with confidence in the institution. He would propose, as an amendment to the resolution for the adoption of the report, a resolution to the effect "That the shareholders having heard of the loss sustained by the Unity Bank, believed that such loss had, in a great degree, resulted from the inattention and want of due supervision of the board, who consequently did not possess the confidence of the shareholders."

Mr. Bentley, of Manchester, seconded the resolution.

Mr. Deputy Bower, one of the directors, said he would take upon himself to reply to the observations of Mr. Hinde, who had represented him as being a man unworthy a seat at that board. (Cries of "No, no.") They had had an admirable account of the state of their affairs from the chairman, who understood everything relating to the bank, and he felt that the directors had treated them fairly in the statement which they had heard, and he felt that there was every chance of success. Then why was this opposition brought forward? He would tell them. Nothing so strong, so desperate as malice, where a man says, "Only let me put my fingers into your property; if you do not, I never will leave you." He would not mention names, of course—(Hear, hear; cries of "Name, name," "No, no"), but he would relate an anecdote. The directors had employed a certain agent, and agreed to give him 10 per cent. on the amount of money he brought to the bank. Well, the sum amounted to £3 8*s*. 4*d*. during a period of six or eight months (laughter); and in pro-

uisitionists of the present meeting that was so soon to be held.
) He could assure the meeting that the payment of the £75 would
aved the directors a great deal of trouble; and the correspondence
ich he had referred, without mentioning names, would show the
ig the motives that had influenced the resolution which had just been
o the meeting, and which he ventured to say would be unsuccessful.
, hear.) So much for that resolution, and the motive which in-
ed it. The directors were the only friends of the shareholders.
had never deserted them. He and his colleagues had worked without
reward—no, he would not say that, for they were about to receive
ay the highest possible reward in the expression of the confidence of
areholders. (Loud cheers.) Animated by that expression of their
gs, they would go on with increased energy, and he did not doubt that
would be be able to conduct to a successful issue a concern which he
ed had a solid basis, and their confidence in which he and his brother
ors had shown by risking in it the whole of their property. He sub-
l to the meeting whether they would go with him or with the gentle-
whose name he would not mention.

Hinde said that the statements of Mr. Bower with respect to the
y at Manchester were incorrect. He left the concern voluntarily,
ad only charged £75 as three quarters' salary.

Bower said that the contract was that he should be paid 10 per
on the profit gained.

Hinde denied that he had agreed to those terms. He had upon
g the account made his present claim by the advice of his solicitor.
h.) He would withdraw his amendment.

Jones (representing the Guernsey shareholders) asked several ques-
on various items in the balance-sheet, in reply to which,

chairman stated, although the charter gave the directors the power
ise the preliminary expenses over twenty-years, it was impossible to
until they had derived a profit. He also stated that interest on the
f the buildings at Brighton would be charged against that branch, as
s it paid.

resolution was then carried.

Cuthbert referred to the fact of the directors having foregone their

Mr. Woodhouse, the secretary, read the report, by which it appear notwithstanding the almost unparalleled difficulties of the last few m the capital of the company was not only preserved intact, but there available balance, after due provision for contingencies, equivalen dividend of 2½ per cent. The directors, however, in the belief th interest of the shareholders would be best promoted by the adop such a course, recommended that this balance should be carried forv the next half-yearly account. Remarking on the progress of the the directors state:—

"When it is borne in mind that a discount company is especially to the influence of a commercial crisis, it cannot be doubted that sults which the directors now submit to the proprietary must be con satisfactory. In conclusion, they would impress upon the attention shareholders the fact, that time is essential to the development of ness of this character; and whilst reiterating their confidence ultimate success, they desire to direct attention to the circumstan the obstacles incidental to the operations of a newly-formed establi are daily diminishing, and that events have grown out of the late c which they are justified in referring as narrowing the extent of compe

The report winds up as follows:—

"In conclusion, the directors would impress upon the shareholde time is essential to the development of a business of this characte whilst reiterating their confidence in the ultimate success of the co draw attention to the fact that the obstacles incidental to the operat a newly-formed establishment are daily diminishing, and that event grown out of the late crisis to which they are justified in refer narrowing the extent of competition, and thereby favourably af the prosperity of the company."

The following are the accounts, audited by Mr. William Turqua accountant:—

BALANCE-SHEET, DEC. 31, 1857.

Dr.			
To capital account			...£178,235
(Deposit of £5 per share, on 35,647 shares.)			
Depositors, and liabilities on bills re-discounted			... 842,091
Sundry creditors for rent, law charges, and stationery			575
Balance			14,216
			£1,035,118
Cr.			
By cash at bankers'	£8,475	18 0	
Cash at office	105	3 6	
			8,581
Bills not matured			... 971,156
Balance of overdue bills in hand	... 42,759	1 4	
Less reserve appropriated on 30th June	... 3,495	5 9	
			39,263
By Loans on securities			... 11,070
Sundry debtors, for balances on current accounts			... 246
Office furniture, fixtures, &c.			... 1,800
Preliminary expenses			... 3,000
			£1,035,118

PROFIT AND LOSS, FROM 30TH JUNE, 1857, TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1857.

Dr.			
To rent, salaries, and office expenses	£2,434	1	2
Amount written off office furniture, fixtures, &c. ...	113	12	10
Amount written off preliminary expenses	381	7	8
Balance	14,216	4	3
	£17,145	5	11
Rebate of interest on bills not due, taken at 6 per cent...	£4,087	14	11
Balance carried down	10,128	9	4
	£14,216	4	3
Cr.			
By balance brought forward from last half-year	£3,832	13	0
Discount account, for balance of that account	13,294	0	5
Transfer fees	18	12	6
	£17,145	5	11
Balance brought down	£14,216	4	3
Balance	£10,128	9	4
(Subject to a reserve for losses on returned bills, estimated at £5,500.)			

The chairman moved that the report be received and adopted. In doing so, he took the opportunity of reminding the shareholders that they had been only about twelve months in operation. During that short period they had, however, been concerned in operations amounting to £5,100,000. Their matured bills, up to 31st December, amounted to £1,400,000. The amount of bills not matured was £972,000. During the extraordinary difficulties that met them last year at almost the very commencement of their undertaking, if the directors had not exercised the greatest care and prudence, the consequences must have been fatal to the interests of the company. (Hear, hear.) Their property, however, was now as safe as upon the first moment it was entrusted to their hands. The directors invited the fullest and most searching inquiry; but they hoped that that inquiry would be made in no hostile spirit, but that everything would be regarded with the most friendly feeling. (Hear, hear.) The chairman then concluded by moving that the report just read be adopted.

The motion having been immediately seconded,

Mr. Chown, while offering no opposition to the meeting, asked for some explanation in regard to a dividend. He thought it would be much more satisfactory to the company if there were a small dividend, say of 2 per cent. on the capital, which would be £3,564. He also expressed a wish that the directors should be paid for their valuable services. He would therefore suggest that £500 be given to them for their past services. He did not think that they ought to have charged their rebate at 6 per cent.; he thought 5 per cent. would be sufficient. He did not mean to offer any opposition to the motion, but would suggest that the report be altered to meet the views which he had expressed.

Another shareholder, while expressing his opinion of the justice of compensating their directors, thought that, under the circumstances, they ought to accept their services, which they were so kind as to offer them. He contended that a reserve fund was absolutely necessary in order to maintain the prosperity of the company; and therefore he did not think that they were in a position to make a dividend. In conclusion, he expressed his satisfaction at the general mode in which the affairs of the company had been conducted, and expressed his thanks to the directors for the valuable services they had rendered in the preservation of their capital during the recent dreadful monetary crisis.

Mr. Clay, M.P., fully concurred in the tribute of praise paid by the previous speakers to the directors, who had done even much greater services to the company than merely the preservation of their capital. He should certainly be disposed to think that the profits of the company should be divided. Although the directors might be even disposed to continue their services for nothing, he for one would be unwilling to accept of the same, being fully convinced that all such gratuitous services became the least effective in the end. (Hear, hear.) They had eight directors before them; and no man was more convinced of their respectability, or was more grateful for their services, than he was.

The chairman said that the number of directors was originally thirteen, but in consequence of resignations and other causes, they had been reduced to eight.

Mr. Clay said, that although under existing circumstances he would be willing to accept the services of these directors gratuitously, as they were offered, yet he was decidedly of opinion that for the future there should be appropriated £1,000 a year as remuneration for such services.

The chairman, in reply to a shareholder, said that if there were any mistake made in the statement of their accounts, he was quite sure it would be found in favour of the company. The most rigid scrutiny was made in respect to the bills taken during the monetary crisis, and it was the conscientious belief of the directors that the company would not lose a shilling by them.

The motion for the adoption of the report was then unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Paravicini moved:—"That the meeting take into consideration the propriety of dissolving the company."

Mr. Robinson seconded the resolution.

Mr. Cazenove, while expressing his unwillingness to support the resolution made, suggested that they ought to amalgamate with the National Discount Company.

Mr. Paravicini having withdrawn the resolution,

The chairman, in reference to the observations made, said that the directors would never do anything to compromise the interests of the company. This was no bubble scheme, but one of the soundest and most substantial character. (Hear, hear.) As to dividends, he would tell them large dividends had proved the destruction of many companies, and he hoped that they would never endanger their interests by adopting any course that would be fraught with danger.

Mr. Frederick Chinnock moved:—"That £1,000 be set apart for the remuneration of the directors for their past services."

This motion having been seconded,

Mr. Ionides expressed his cordial concurrence in it.

Mr. Ballantine was of opinion that the company could not at present afford the sum proposed.

Mr. Clay proposed :—"That the sum of £1,000 be set apart for the directors, as remuneration for their future services."

Mr. Chinnock warmly supported the original proposition, which was carried by a very large majority.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr. Keely, the manager, and other officers of the company, concluded the proceedings.

THE CITY BANK.

The half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held on the 19th January, at the London Tavern; the Right Hon. Sir. R. W. Carden, the Lord Mayor, in the chair.

The advertisement convening the meeting having been read,

The secretary presented the following report and statement of accounts :—

The directors have the pleasure to place before the proprietors the accompanying accounts, showing the result of the operations of the bank for the six months ending the 31st ultimo.

The first item on the debit side of profit and loss account includes an ample allowance for all bad and doubtful debts, which, although larger than usual, have been less than could have been anticipated, considering the late monetary and commercial difficulties. The directors have, therefore, decided to declare the dividend for the half-year ending the 31st of December last, at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax; after payment of which there will remain £4,228 5*s.* 6*d.* to be carried to the credit of "profit and loss new account" to be disposed of on the 30th June next. The directors have further to report that the sum of £50 per share has been received upon the whole of the last issue of new shares, amounting in all to £75,000, and that this sum will be added to the paid-up capital of the bank so soon as the forms required by the Board of Trade have been complied with.

The directors have to express their deep regret at the death of their esteemed colleague, Mr. James Nelson Smith, and to inform the proprietors that the vacancy thus occasioned in the direction of the bank has been supplied by the election of Mr. John Lidgett, subject to the confirmation of this meeting. The dividend will be payable on and after the 26th instant.

Liabilities and Assets, Dec. 31, 1857.

Dr.				
To capital paid up, viz., £50 per share on 4,500 shares...			£225,000	0 0
Amount received on account of third issue of shares			75,000	0 0
Amount of reserved fund			28,000	0 0
Amount due by the bank on current and deposit accounts			1,388,933	6 5
Profit and loss account for the balance of that account, viz. :—				
Surplus profit brought forward from last half-year...	£2,174	11 11		
Since added	27,145	3 3		
			29,319	15 2
			£1,746,253	1 7

Cr.

By Exchequer bills and bonds, and East India bonds ...	£153,350	12	4
Bills discounted, loans, &c.	1,383,906	4	1
Building, furniture, &c.	30,490	7	1
Cash in hand, at Bank of England, and at call ...	178,505	18	1
	£1,746,253	1	7

Profit and Loss Account for the Half-year ending December 31, 1857.

Dr.

To current expenses, including salaries, rent, stationery, directors' remuneration, proportion of building expenses, allowance for bad debts, income-tax, &c.	£13,360	10	2
Amount carried to profit and loss new account, being rebate on bills discounted, not yet due ...	6,105	19	6
Dividend account for the payment of a dividend at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum, upon £225,000, amount of paid-up capital upon 4,500 shares	5,625	0	0
Undivided profit transferred to profit and loss new account	4,228	5	6
	£29,319	15	2

Cr.

By balance brought down, viz.:—			
Surplus profit brought forward from last half-year	£2,174	11	11
Since added	27,145	3	3
	£29,319	15	2

We have examined, and do approve, the above accounts,

ARTHUR A. RASCH,
WM. ANNING. } *Auditors.*

London, *Jan.* 13.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, observed that it was as plain and unvarnished a statement of accounts as had ever appeared before a body of proprietors. They were all aware of the extraordinary monetary crisis that had taken place within the last six months. (Cheers.) For himself he thought, and the proprietors generally would probably agree with him, that, taking the crisis into consideration, they would have been satisfied if they had had their accounts rendered to them stating there had been no loss on the half-year, but that there was nothing to divide. When, however, they were in a position to come before them with a good dividend, nothing, he thought, could be more satisfactory. (Hear, hear.) The directors had taken care during the prevalence of the panic to keep a very large reserve instead of lending it out at interest, and he thought that they were justified in that excess of caution. (Hear, hear.) Indeed, he could state that at the very height of the crisis they had no less a sum than £100,000 lodged at the Bank of England, and it was a great advantage to know that, in the opinion of the authorities of the Bank, they acted with great prudence in keeping so large a reserve at a time when the temptation of 10 or 12 per cent. was

:e the preparation of this report. With respect to the accounts, , state that they were now much more satisfactory than when the end of the year. Then Exchequer Bills were at par, and now e at £1 5*s.* premium, which was indicative of something beneficial in the future. The rebate of interest was also taken at 7 per cent. hear). Although they undoubtedly had had a large amount ebts during the last half-year, yet in that respect he thought they no way different from any other bank, for he believed that any ı getting up and stating that there had been no increased loss by ts, would be saying rather what he wished than what was the ct. In conclusion, he observed that he should be happy to answer tions which might be put to him by the proprietary.

ound congratulated the board on not having attempted to conceal ;. But he did not observe it stated that they had paid no interest nd on the last new shares of £75,000.

hairman said it was treated as a deposit, and the interest was upon it in the same way as all other deposits.

hite thought it would be desirable that more explanation should be ı to the current expenses. Salaries, directors' remuneration, and s were all lumped together. He should like some further informa- o the bad debts. He was glad to see, however, that the directors ,000 more at the Bank of England than last year. He wished to hat amount of discount was obtained by the directors?

hairman said the director was in the same position as the shareholder, hat his security was looked at with rather more jealousy. But it ı throwing away custom to refuse a director accommodation at his k when his security was undoubted. With regard to the detailed ı, any proprietor might see them by calling at the secretary's office. ne increased amount of bad debts, he really thought, considering s, they had gone through that period with an exceedingly small

. V. East wished to know whether the accounts could not be circu- fore the meeting?

hairman said it was not the practice in other banks, and was in fact le; but any proprietor might see the whole particulars by calling ecretary's office. He again reverted to the subject of bad debts, ough it was rather an awkward circumstance, he had no objection

the accounts with great care. He for his part was surprised the bad debts were so small; and he could testify that the affairs of the bank were in a healthy and sound condition. At the same time, as he wished to serve the bank in a higher position, he begged to resign the office of auditor; and he moved that Mr. Owen Lewis be elected in his stead.

A short discussion took place on the informality of this motion, as no notice had been given.

The chairman and Mr. Lloyd, one of the directors, spoke to their knowledge of Mr. Lewis's character, and he was elected unanimously.

Mr. Lewis returned thanks, and said as they had thought him worthy of election he would discharge his duties to the best of his ability.

Thanks were then voted to the chairman and the directors, especially for the manner in which they had carried the bank through the late difficulties.

The chairman returned thanks, and promised his best exertions for the future, as they had been given in the past, and hoped that at the next half year the dividend would rise above 5 per cent. He then delicately adverted to the duty of the proprietors to keep their accounts at their own bank. If they could not do that they could not expect the public to assist them.

Another shareholder moved the thanks of the meeting to the manager, Mr. White, which was carried by acclamation.

A vote of thanks was also passed to the auditors, to which Mr. Rasch responded, after which the meeting adjourned.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF LONDON.

In compliance with a wish generally expressed by the proprietors of this bank at their general meeting in July last, they held for the first time a half-yearly meeting at their office in Lothbury on the 19th January. There were about forty or fifty shareholders present upon the occasion.

The chair was taken by Mr. Mark Hunter, the chairman of the board of directors.

The advertisement convening the meeting having been read,

The chairman stated, in reply to a question put by a proprietor, that the shareholders had not been furnished with notices that that meeting was to be held, but the fact had been announced through the public papers. He might add, however, that the directors would have no objection to supply each individual shareholder with a notice for the future.

The manager, Mr. A. R. Cutbill, then read the 18th report of the directors, together with the balance-sheet of the bank for the half-year ending Dec. 31, 1857. It was as follows:—

"The present is the first half-yearly meeting held by this bank, and is called in compliance with the wish generally expressed by the proprietors at the annual general meeting in July last. The directors have therefore to submit the balance-sheet for the six months ending the 31st of December last, which exhibits a net profit of £15,465 18*s.* 11*d.* after deducting all expenses, making provision for bad and doubtful debts, and paying £10,705 9*s.* 2*d.* interest to customers during the half-year on deposit accounts.

"The directors have now to declare a dividend of 3 per cent. for the half-year, free from income tax. They propose to add the sum of £536 6*s.* 6*d.* to the guarantee fund, which will then amount to £75,000 being 25 per cent. on the paid-up capital; and, as they consider this an ample reserve, they do not propose to increase it further for the present

After allowing £3,625 10*s.* 9*d.* required for rebate on bills discounted and not yet due, there will remain £2,304 1*s.* 8*d.* to carry forward to the profit and loss account for the current half-year.

Dr.			
Capital subscribed	£1,500,00 0 0		
Capital paid up £20 on 15,000 shares		£300,000	0 0
Guarantee fund	£73,272 19 10		
Add interest for six months	1,190 13 8		
		74,463	13 6
Balances due to the customers of the Bank		821,626	7 10
Balance carried down after paying income-tax, and deducting all charges and expenses, including £10,705 9*s.* 2*d.* interest to customers, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts		15,465	18 11
		£1,211,556	0 3
Cr.			
Cash in the bank and at call, at the Bank of England, Exchequer Bills, India Bonds, and Consols		£290,262	1 7
Bills discounted, loans on stock and other securities ...		918,293	18 8
Strong-room, fittings and furniture (premises held on lease)		3,000	0 0
		£1,211,556	0 3
Dr.			
Dividend at the rate of £6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending 31st December, 1857...		9,000	0 0
Rebate of interest on current bills carried to profit and loss new account		3,625	10 9
Carried to guarantee fund, making that fund £75,000 ...		536	6 6
Balance carried to next half-year...		2,304	1 8
		£15,465	18 11
Cr.			
Balance brought down		£15,465	18 11

The chairman then addressed the meeting as follows:—Gentlemen, you have just heard the report and the balance-sheet; but before I allude to them I will make a remark or two on the circumstances under which we hold for the first time this half-yearly meeting. The reason why our meetings have hitherto been yearly is that our deed of settlement prescribes that as the mode of proceeding which we shall follow. But the moment the proprietors expressed a wish, as several of them did, that we should hold half-yearly meetings, we of course at once determined on acceding to their desire. There will probably be now some advantage gained by our holding a half-yearly meeting, for many of the proprietors knowing that the last few months have been a time of anxiety in the City, will, perhaps, be glad to learn that we have passed without any serious loss through what may be called the ordeal to which, in common with every bank in the country, we have been subjected. I do not mean to say that we have entirely escaped losses; that could hardly be expected. Several of our customers

failed, but we have not been involved in their fall to any amount which would seriously affect our condition. In fact our losses, although there have been several of them, may be regarded as inconsiderable. I cannot claim anys pecial credit for this bank on account of the statement I am about to make, for I believe it is one that might be made with respect to all the London banks, but I may observe that I think it reflects great credit on these establishments generally, that throughout the whole of the recent crisis they were never, as far as I know, placed in any position of pressing difficulty. Every person who is at all conversant with the course of business in the City, must see that if any bank of any standing had gone down during the crisis, such a circumstance would have added greatly to the distrust which pervaded the commercial body; and it must be a source of satisfaction to us all to know that no serious reverse has occurred to any bank in the City of London. Under the circumstances, I think we must rejoice that we have an opportunity of holding this half-yearly meeting. You will, no doubt, be also glad to know, that although we have never been without an ample revenue to meet the demands upon us, none of our customers could complain that we had withheld from them such accommodation as they were fairly entitled to expect. Of course we took the precautions which we deemed requisite against operations of a perilous character; but we placed no undue pressure on our customers. We did nothing more than tell them that they should not come to us unnecessarily, and that they should, as far as possible, avoid bringing us long bills. We told them to shorten their bills as much as possible, both for their sakes and for ours, in order that we might be enabled to give them all the facilities they had a right to claim; and I believe that, in point of fact, none of our customers could complain that they had not met with the usual accommodation. In consequence of the large amount of our reserve, we have not realised as much profit as if we had a smaller reserve. The directors, however, looked rather to the interest of the shareholders than to any view of immediate profit. I hope that that feeling will be duly appreciated by the shareholders generally. (Hear, hear). We have carefully carried on the proper reserve in the shape of a guarantee fund to protect the proprietors from all contingencies. Although, then, we may have sacrificed a little profit, I am sure, in the end, that the management will be found to be conducive to the general safety of the bank, and the security of the shareholders. The directors have no doubt been open to much temptation to take a different course. Immediately after our last meeting, a most respectable shareholder came up to me and asked me why we thought it necessary to keep so large a reserve, that the affairs of the bank could afford us a little more profit if we diminished the reserve. I said that could, of course, be done; we could, no doubt realise more profit, but that was not our main consideration; and I then contended, as I do now contend, that, in the long run, it will be found that we have consulted the ultimate benefit of the bank by having a good reserve always at hand in case it should be wanted. In considering the amount of the dividend, we should recollect the serious difficulties that have recently existed in the monetary world, and the extraordinary reaction which has now taken place. While money, some time ago, could not be had except at an enormous interest, it could now be easily obtained at 4 or 5 per cent. interest. Our balance shows some diminution in its amount, but, in December last, our customers generally, finding money advancing to an enormous rate of interest, did not keep such large balances in the bank as they were in the habit of doing. Since then, however, the balance has been gradually increasing. On the whole, I see no reason why the proprietors should not be perfectly

satisfied with the affairs of the bank. I think we may reasonably look forward now to the doing of a much larger share of business than heretofore. In conclusion, then, I have only to express a hope that the conduct of the directors in the management of the bank will be fully appreciated.

Mr. Rennie moved the adoption of the report, which he considered exceedingly satisfactory. It was, in his opinion, much more satisfactory than they, under the circumstances, could have expected. He was sure that the report, as well as the statement made by the hon. chairman, would now be sufficient to give the lie to the slanderous reports which had been put into circulation, and which occasioned a depreciation of their shares in the market.

The motion having been seconded,

Mr. Hutchinson concurred in thinking the report extremely satisfactory, but at the same time he thought it would be more politic to declare a dividend of 7 per cent., as their profits would fully justify such a course. The public would be likely to judge of the prosperity of the bank by looking at the mere dividend without analysing the report, and learning the reasons which induced the directors to keep the dividend so low. The company had really more profits to declare a dividend from than they had last year, and he thought the directors would have acted more wisely to have increased the dividend. He had, however, too much respect for the directors to propose any resolution to that effect. He had made those observations in the most perfect good feeling. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Fisher concurred with the last speaker in thinking that the dividend might be increased. He believed that their reserve fund was larger in proportion to their capital than that of any other joint-stock bank in the country.

The chairman—It is about the same as that of the London Joint-stock Bank. As regards the money due to the bank, the reserve fund is larger than that of any other bank.

After some further observations,

Mr. Jackson, M.P. (director), observed that large profits were one thing, but prudence was another. Although their profits at the present moment would, no doubt, justify a large dividend, still it was impossible to say what changes might take place in their securities. Although these securities were most excellent in December last, it was difficult to say how they would be regarded in June next. He had not, however, any apprehensions respecting them, but his experience of panics made him recommend the greatest caution. In respect to the price of their shares out of doors, the directors had nothing to do with that matter. If some of their proprietors had been obliged to sell out, they might reasonably hope that they would get much stronger men in their places.

The motion for the adoption of the report and balance-sheet was then unanimously carried.

The chairman next declared a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year, free of income tax.

A vote of thanks was then passed to the chairman and directors, and the business was brought to a conclusion.

UNION BANK OF LONDON.

The half-yearly meeting of this company was held on the 20th January at the offices in Princes-street; Mr. Northall Laurie, in the absence of Sir Peter Laurie from illness, in the chair.

The secretary read the following report:—

The directors have the pleasure to report, that after making full provision for bad and doubtful debts, and payment of all current charges, the net profits of the half-year, ending the 31st December last, amount to £55,474 5*s*.

It is very satisfactory to the directors that this balance enables them to declare a dividend and bonus equal to that paid at this period last year, viz., a dividend for the last six months at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum and a bonus of 2½ per cent. on the paid-up capital.

After payment as above, amounting to £45,000, there will remain a balance of £5,474 5*s*., to be carried forward for disposal at the end of the financial year in July.

LIABILITIES.

Dr.			
Paid-up capital, £10 per share on 60,000 shares ...	£600,000	0	0
Due by the bank on current accounts, deposit receipts (including interest accrued) circular notes, &c. ...	9,645,913	7	11
Reserved fund, invested in Bank of England stock and Consols, as per contra	150,000	0	0
	£10,395,913	7	11
Surplus	77,181	3	6
	£10,473,094	11	5

Cr. ASSETS.			
Cash in the bank, at the Bank of England, and at call ...	£1,893,670	16	8
Government stock, Exchequer Bills, and City Bonds ...	1,211,945	0	0
Loans, bills discounted, &c.	7,110,072	5	0
£60,000 Bank Stock (taken at 203, present value being 217) and 32,947 0*s*. 8*d*. Consols Reserved Fund ...	150,000	0	0
Bank premises, consisting of freehold buildings in Princes-street, Mansion House-street, Argyll-place and Fleet-street; and lease and fixtures at 4, Pall Mall East	107,406	9	9
	£10,473,094	11	5

APPROPRIATION OF THE SURPLUS.

Dividend on paid-up capital, for—			
Half-year, to 31st December, 1857, now declared at 5 per cent.	£30,000	0	0
Bonus, now declared at 2½ per cent.	15,000	0	0
	£45,000	0	0
Carried to profit and loss new account, viz.:—			
Rebate of interest on bills not yet due	26,706	18	6
Undivided profit	5,474	5	0
	£77,181	3	6
Surplus, as above, after deducting all expenses and interest, paid or due (185,958 6*s*. 3*d*.) allowed to customers on their current and deposit accounts ...	£77,181	3	6

irman, in moving the adoption of the report, and the payment of
nd and bonus as recommended in the same, to be payable on and
23rd January, said that the directors were extremely gratified at
n which the report had been received by the proprietors, though
g which had been manifested was not unexpected, because the
s far more favourable than the shareholders could fairly have
d it would be. During the recent crisis they had been obliged to
em a much larger reserve than would have been requisite under
circumstances. The directors had instituted a most rigid and
restigation into all their bad and doubtful debts, and they
en off out of their profits for the half-year a sufficient sum to cover
gencies, and bad and doubtful debts—(loud cheers)—so that they
ed their business for the new half-year without any drawback
om the transactions of the last six months. They had been enabled
e the dividend and bonus recommended in the report without any
nce. There was a determination on the part of the directors to
all bad and doubtful debts. (Cheers.) He was happy to state
the branches were highly remunerative, and he looked with in-
onfidence to their future prosperity. He and some of his brother
had received letters from proprietors, asking questions upon one
oints, and he was desirous of referring to those matters. It would
e recollection of the proprietors that at the last meeting it was
at no advances had been made to any director, and that statement
ssibly give rise to some misapprehension, inasmuch as it had
to the case of directors in their individual capacity only. It would
every gentleman present that where a member of the board was a
of, or a partner in, a large mercantile firm, keeping their account
bank, that gentleman, through his firm, would receive the same
dation as other customers. (Hear.) Again, the board had been
hether the bank had sustained any loss from the failure of two
ck banks in Scotland; and, in reply to that inquiry, he had the
to state, that they had not lost one penny by those banks; and,
r, that they were not in a position to lose anything, because they
ave to pay over a large balance to each of those establishments.
hey had been asked whether it was their intention to increase the
of the bank, and whether they would make, in fact, an additional
e begged to state that such a notion had never entered into the
f the board. They were only desirous to increase their capital in
legitimate way—namely, by increasing their reserved fund; and
ort which they had received from the shareholders in carrying out
ect showed that they had followed out a good policy. The amount
eserved fund was now £150,000, or even more, because, looking to
that they had estimated their bank stock at 200 only, whereas it
r at least 217, they clearly had undervalued their resources in this
He would now only advert to some observations which had lately
ade on the principle of joint-stock banks. Of course these banks
blic institutions, and their balance-sheets were open to public in-
, and comment, and remark. At the same time some discrimina-
st be drawn between joint-stock banks in London, which were
ered on strict banking principles, and those which would be found
e. When there was a power of issue, there was a great distinction
awn between the two classes. When they looked to what had been
by joint-stock banks during the last twenty years, and to the con-
and facilities which they had afforded to the commercial world, it
confessed that the joint-stock banks had a hold upon the public,

and he trusted the public were determined to support them. They had now become a great part of the commercial machinery of this vast metropolis, and they were not to be written down—(cheers)—unless they fell from mismanagement. There was no danger while they had as directors men of high character having a large stake in the concern, supported by a wealthy and influential proprietary. He was satisfied that the Union Bank would always maintain its present position; and, in conclusion, he begged to move that the report be received and adopted.

Mr. Anderton seconded the motion, which was carried with acclamation, as were also the usual complimentary votes to the chairman and directors. The meeting then separated.

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.

The half-yearly meeting of this bank was held on the 20th January, at their office in Lothbury. There were nearly 200 shareholders present.

Mr. Alderman Salomons took the chair, and said that the directors were very happy to have an opportunity of meeting the shareholders to lay before them the accounts of the bank during the last half-year, and telling them how their affairs at present stood,

The secretary read the following report and balance-sheet:—

From the statements now submitted, the shareholders will perceive that —after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts—paying the income tax—setting apart £2,000, towards the new buildings in Lothbury, Bloomsbury, Southwark, and Temple Bar—and presenting a gratuity of 10 per cent. on their salaries to all the officers of the establishment—the net profits of the bank for the last half-year amount to £66,175 13*s.* 11*d.*, which added to £10,271 1*s.* 8*d.*, the unappropriated profits of the preceding half year, make a total of £76,446 15*s.* 7*d.*

Out of this sum the directors have allowed interest for the last half-year on the rest or surplus fund at the rate of 5 per cent., and they now declare a dividend of 3 per cent. for the half-year, and by way of further dividend out of the profits, a bonus of 4 per cent. upon the paid-up capital.

After these payments are made, there is an unappropriated balance of £2,578 11*s.* 5*d.*, which remains to the credit of the profit and loss account.

The directors who go out by rotation are William Tite, Esq., M.P., F.R.S.; John Lewis Ricardo, Esq., M.P.; and Charles Gibbes, Esq.; all of whom being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

Dr.

To proprietors for paid-up capital	£1,000,000	0	0
„ Amount due by the bank on deposits, circular notes, &c.	13,889,021	11	8
„ Rest or surplus fund	154,728	6	7
„ Balance of profit and loss account	10,271	1	8
„ Net profits of the past half-year	66,175	13	11
	£15,120,196	13	10

Cr.

By Government Stock, Exchequer bills, Exchequer Bonds, and India Bonds	£2,192,982	3	1
„ Other securities, including Bills discounted, loans to customers, &c.	10,700,772	14	11
„ Cash in hand	2,226,441	15	10
	£15,120,196	13	10

PROFIT AND LOSS.

Dr.

To total expenditure of the seven establishments, including rent, taxes, salaries, stationery, &c., with a gratuity of 10 per cent. on their salaries to the officers of the establishment	£32,248	11	7
Amount set apart towards the new buildings in Lothbury, Bloomsbury, Southwark, and Temple Bar, £500 each	2,000	0	0
Amount added to rest or surplus fund by interest, at 5 per cent.	3,868	4	2
Payment of the dividend now declared, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, for the last half-year on the paid-up capital of £1,000,000	30,000	0	0
Bonus of 4 per cent. on the capital	40,000	0	0
Balance of profit and loss account	2,578	11	5
	£110,695	7	2

Cr.

By balance of profit and loss account on the 30th June, 1857	£10,271	1	8
Gross profits of the last half-year, after paying the income tax, and making provision for all bad and doubtful debts	100,424	5	6
	£110,695	7	2

REST OR SURPLUS FUND.

Dr.

Present amount	£158,596	10	9

Cr.

Amount on July 1st, 1857	£154,728	6	7
By interest on ditto, at 5 per cent. per annum	3,868	4	2
	£158,596	10	9

The chairman then addressed the meeting as follows:—I am happy to see the room so well filled. That circumstance is a proof of the interest you take in the business of this meeting, and I am glad to be able to submit a statement of our affairs to so large a body of the proprietary. We are about to adopt upon the present occasion a course which we never before pursued. We have at all previous meetings suggested to our proprietors that they should put questions to us, with the view of elucidating the mode

in which the business of the bank is conducted. But the state of joint-stock banks generally now forms a subject of so much interest and discussion among the public at large, that we have thought it desirable to submit to you a full detail of the whole of the assets of our establishment (hear, hear), so that every one here present, and all other parties, by means of the press, may be able to know how our bank stands. (Hear, hear.) We challenge inquiry upon the subject; we believe that the affairs of the bank are ably and prudently conducted; we believe that the experience we have had during the last twenty-four years has enabled us to conduct the business of this establishment in such a way that we might defy any contingency within the limits of ordinary human occurrence. But at the same time, if it can be shown that there is anything faulty in the manner in which our business has been managed, we shall be glad to introduce into it every fitting improvement. I must, however, say that, looking at the position in which we were placed during the last three months, throughout even the height of the monetary crisis, considering that we never found it necessary to have recourse to any of our securities, while we have been able to extend to all our customers every assistance they could reasonably expect, we think that, as far as we are concerned, we have the best evidence that we have conducted the affairs of the establishment properly and prudently. (Hear, hear.) We shall now submit to you such figures as will enable you and the public at large to see how far we have faithfully discharged our duty. You have each of you in your hands a copy of our report. You know we are a bank with £5,000,000 of nominal capital, of which £1,000,000 has been paid up. The next point to which I wish to call your attention is the amount due to the bank on deposits and circular notes. I beg you distinctly to understand that this item consists entirely of current deposits, and deposits at interest, with a mere fraction of circular notes, and a mere fraction due to such of our depositors as have not taken out their interest. The total amount due by the bank in deposits and circular notes is £13,889,000, or within £24,000 of the sum at which the same item stood in the month of June last. (Hear, hear.) Then, again, our deposits stand at a sum of £2,000,000 more than they did at this time last year. (Hear.) Our rest stands now at very nearly £160,000. In all probability, the mode in which joint-stock banks generally are managed will come under the consideration of the House of Commons in the course of the ensuing session. But I cannot believe that parliament will do anything which would materially interfere with banks such as ours, that have grown up in rude times, and that never received any favours from the legislature, or any assistance from any of those great institutions which we found established at the period of our first constitution. Now, if you look at the other side, you will find that our government stock amounts to £2,192,982. That is our investment—an investment made at a price below the present market price, and which will consequently realise a large profit. We have £1,000,000 of Consols; we have short loans lent to brokers on the Stock Exchange amounting to £14,000 on government stock; there is a loan of £500,000 to the East India Company on East Indian stock, at 6 per cent. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) We hold East India Railway Stock and other debentures amounting to £749,000. Our discounts and loans, business done with our customers, amounts to £4,751,000. Those are loans and discounts to customers on good securities. We hold short bills, which will become due in a few days, to the amount of about £2,194,000. We have other securities amounting to £10,700,772, which could be called in at a very short notice. We have also at our command

in cash, upwards of £2,500,000, making altogether a total of £15,000,000 and upwards. (Hear, hear). I place these facts before the proprietary and the public with the greatest pride. (Hear, hear). I feel that there is no bank that can show a fairer, a truer, or more trustworthy account than this. (Hear, hear). And in order to show that this state of security has not been occasioned by any special prudential course which we considered it necessary to adopt in consequence of the recent panic, I should like to carry you to a consideration of the state of the bank on the 11th of November, the day upon which the Cabinet determined to issue the letter to the directors of the Bank relaxing the law of 1844, and to show you in what position we were in in reference to our engagements at that time. We held, on that day, of Government stock, £2,000,000. Our short loans, which had then only a few days to run, with money lent on Government stock, Exchange bills, &c., amounted to £1,750,000. Bills discounted for brokers, due within the current year, £5,000,000. We had then cash in hand, £2,010,000—making a total of £10,730,000. Our discounts and loans to customers were £4,200,000. We had then upwards of £10,000,000 of available assets to meet any contingencies. (Hear, hear). I wish to show that everything connected with the bank has been in a thoroughly secure and efficient state. The public have a right to know the fullest particulars, in order that they may feel assured that their money is placed in safe hands, and that this institution has been ably managed. We had £2,000,000 of Government stock, the best security which we could hold. (Hear, hear). Between the 11th November and the end of December we had £3,000,000 coming due. If, therefore, there had been a run made upon us, and that we had only a few days' notice, we could command £11,000,000 of available property to distribute to the public without asking a favour from anybody, or going to market to borrow money. We held £1,000,000 of Consols at that time; about £500,000 of Reduced Three per Cents. and of New Threes; we held £500,000 Exchequer bills, and about £200,000 of Exchequer bonds. While upon this subject, I wish to correct a mistake that is occasionally committed by some of the papers that discuss affairs of finance. It is the custom of all the banks to keep large deposits of notes and securities in the Bank of England; therefore, all those notes and sovereigns are not moneys taken away from the particular banks and added to the treasury of the Bank of England, but these deposits are merely excesses of our daily wants that are lodged there. As to the question of dividend, we intend to pay this year to you 7 per cent. for the half-year, which is at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum. This sum, added to the 9 per cent. paid the first half-year, makes a total dividend of 16 per cent. for the year. (Hear, hear.) The reason is obvious why the present dividend is not as large as the previous one, namely we have not earned as much money. In a crisis of great monetary failures, the proprietors must be prepared to bear their share of the pressure. When money rises to an unnatural rate of interest, prudence requires us to keep a portion of it idle to meet any exigencies which cannot at the moment be foreseen. When we saw so many banks in the country failing it was natural to expect that the pressure would be felt in London. It is, however, a matter of much pride and gratification to us all to know that both the private and joint-stock banks of London have stood that crisis most successfully. The consequence, however, of such a state of things was, that we were obliged to keep a larger amount of property unemployed than usual; and after the crisis had passed away we found it somewhat more difficult than heretofore to employ our money securely, by reason of the general feeling of discredit

that had been created by the many monetary failures. There has, therefore, been a great diminution of bills of exchange on our bank. Although it would be frivolous for me to say that we have suffered no loss, I am happy to assure you that our losses are very trifling. The failure of the customers of the bank is quite within the average amount. Only one firm of any weight with we were connected has failed, but we shall sustain no loss whatever in consequence, as, in fact, we had at the time no bills of that firm under discount. (Hear, hear.) We have now upwards of £10,000 to meet all possible contingencies, and that amount is accounted for in the profits of the present year. The honourable chairman having, on the part of the directors, invited the fullest investigation, concluded by moving that the report just read be adopted, printed, and circulated amongst the proprietors.

Mr. Moxon said he rose to second the motion for the adoption of the report, but in doing so he should make a few observations on the subject of the general management of the bank. He was sure that they must all be glad to find that their profits had been so considerable. But he could not shut his eyes to the fact that vast amounts were involved in the business of their establishment, and he believed that they could not take too many securities for its proper management. He confessed that he should like to have an audit of the bank, and to have the capital of the bank put into trust. They would by those means obtain an additional guarantee against the occurrence of those great reverses which, in recent times, had overtaken banking establishments that, up to the moment of their fall, had been considered among the most flourishing and the most honestly conducted in the empire. It appeared to him that it was high time they should be made thoroughly acquainted with their position. He wished to ask the chairman, on what principle so large an amount of money had been lent to the East India Company at a time when it looked as if India must fall from our grasp? (Cries of "No.") He would repeat that statement, and he said further that it was still a matter of doubt whether India might not be torn from us. (Renewed marks of dissent.) He believed that our position in that country could not appear absolutely secure to any person who considered that we might at any moment be dragged into a war with Russia or with other powers. (Murmurs and cries of "Question.") He was convinced that at the time the loan was made to the East India Company, India Stock was totally unsaleable in our money market. (A cry of "No.") He would undertake to say that if £200,000 of India Bonds had then been brought into the money market, they could not be sold at 10 per cent. discount. He wanted to know what were the grounds on which that advance of £500,000 had been made; and he should add that he thought they had a right to be put in possession of the real state of their own affairs. (Hear.) Were they to meet there twice a year, and learn nothing of what was going on in their establishment? They had no audit which would tell them their exact condition, and he maintained that such an audit was desirable. He believed that it would greatly strengthen the hands of the directors, and would add considerably to the confidence in the stability of their establishment on the part of people out of doors. In his opinion, their paid-up capital was at present too small, and he should be glad to see it increased. He was one of the oldest partners in the bank, and he believed that without his exertions and those of his brother it could never have been brought into operation. They had seven branches, and it was a ground of just alarm that the chisel might on any night be put into the lock of one of their boxes and that they might thus be robbed of an ineal-

ulable amount. (Marks of disapprobation.) He did not care whether he tood alone or not upon that occasion. He was so rich that there was no um he could lose as a shareholder in that bank for which he cared one lamn. (Hisses, and loud cries of "Order" and "Chair.")

The chairman said that he should before that time have stopped Mr. loxon if he had been praising the directors. But as that gentleman had een attacking them, he preferred leaving it to the meeting to decide how ie should be dealt with.

Several proprietors here called upon Mr. Moxon to withdraw, or to ipologise for the language he had just used.

Mr. Moxon said he wished to retract it. In conclusion he had to move, 'That a committee of five shareholders be appointed for the purpose of onferring with the directors as to the best mode of securing the stability of the bank."

A proprietor took exception to the mode in which Mr. Moxon proposed o deal with the resolution. He submitted that the gentleman should turn iis amendment into a substantive resolution if he intended really to persevere with it.

Mr. Moxon then consented to second the original resolution, and to move iis proposition immediately afterwards.

The motion for the adoption and circulation of the report was then unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Moxon afterwards repeated his motion as an original proposition.

Mr. Fincham seconded the proposition.

A proprietor then intimated his intention to move, as an amendment, the previous question. He said that they were all no doubt anxious for the fullest information as to the affairs of the bank. If, however, they had not the fullest information upon all matters concerning their interests, then it would be their own fault, for he was confident that if any of them applied to the directors they would be ready to satisfy their minds on every point, or at all events they would be able to afford satisfactory reasons for withholding any particular information. (Hear, hear.) The statement which had been made that day was so ample and satisfactory in itself, he did not think it was possible for them to wish for anything more on the subject. (Hear, hear.) He was convinced that no special committee appointed could elicit anything more valuable in the way of investigation than what they had just heard. It seemed to him then that the proposition of the hon. proprietor was most inopportune. This bank had been established for a period of 24 years, and, though they had from time to time met with considerable losses, they stood that day in a most solid and prosperous position. (Hear, hear.) The report they had heard showed that the bank had been most honestly and efficiently managed. As to having an audit, as had been suggested, an audit to be effective should be a continuous audit. Such a course in effect would be the transferring of their confidence from the directors to the auditors. Banking must be a question of confidence to be reposed in the managers. He thought that the gentleman who moved the proposition would have acted more decorously if he had abstained from doing so. He would, therefore, as an amendment, move the previous question.

Another proprietor, in seconding the amendment, asked what would the public think of such a resolution, if carried, but that the general body felt such a want of confidence in the directors, they were prepared to submit the management of their affairs to a committee of five shareholders? (Hear, hear.) Now what was the feeling that really existed amongst them? They had not the smallest want of confidence in their directors.

On the contrary, they felt perfectly satisfied with the way in which they managed their affairs. (Hear, hear.) Under such circumstances, they were bound to reject the resolution.

Mr. Donaldson greatly regretted that such a proposition had been made. The attention of the meeting had been altogether diverted from its proper channel by the extraordinary speech they had just heard. If the principle contended for by Mr. Moxon was to be recognised in regard to joint-stock banks, every man should become his own banker. When he compared the official statement of this year with that of last, he found that their business had increased considerably. He could only express his own great gratification at the way their affairs had been managed, and at the same time to record his regret that any proprietor should have deemed this the proper occasion for moving a resolution involving a want of confidence. At this time last year their reserve fund amounted to £150,000, and, notwithstanding all the difficulties of the last few months, it had now increased to £158,000. (Hear, hear.)

The chairman said he could not avoid expressing his great regret that such a resolution as that proposed should have ever been submitted. It could not be forgotten that the mover of it was himself an officer of the bank, and was connected with one of its branches. Although that gentleman had certainly shown his independence there, his statements had, no doubt, occasioned very general pain. Mr. Moxon must be supposed to be labouring under some feelings of irritation, arising from a cause utterly unknown to him (the chairman). He could tell him that a bank does not depend so much upon paid-up capital as upon the way in which its capital is employed. It had ever been the policy of the directors of the London and Westminster Bank to operate in such securities as might be readily available. As to the appointment of auditors, which had been suggested, he would ask, had not the British Bank their auditors? (Hear, hear.) Had not the Great Northern Railway Company their auditors of the highest class? The proprietary might rely upon it that the bank could not be a bit safer with auditors than without them. According to the *modus operandi* under their deed they were perfectly secure. They had fifteen directors, who would be the first victims if the affairs of the bank went wrong. All their securities had been most rigidly scrutinised, and the result was as had been stated to them. (Hear, hear.) There was no guarding against distrust, against interior criminality, except by the establishment of a good and efficient system of control such as they already possessed.

The previous question was then put and carried unanimously, with the exception of the mover and seconder of the original resolution.

Mr. William Tite, M.P., Mr. John Lewis Ricardo, M.P., and Mr. Charles Gibbes, the outgoing directors, were then re-elected.

Mr. Hadow, in proposing a vote of thanks to the directors, moved in addition, "That the annual remuneration of those gentlemen should be raised by a sum of £1,500; that was to say, from £4,500 to £6,000."

The chairman said that he had alluded to that subject at their last half-yearly meeting. The directors were prepared to leave it entirely to the decision of the proprietors; but he should express his belief that as under their management the profits of the bank had been increased, they were fairly entitled to share by means of an additional remuneration in that improvement. A great deal of experience and a great deal of attention were required to administer successfully the business of such an establishment.

Mr. Donaldson seconded the proposal.

It was here suggested, and unanimously agreed to, that the motion for

the vote of thanks to the directors should be separated from the motion for an addition to their allowance.

The first of these motions was then put, and unanimously adopted.

The vote for the increase of remuneration was next put, and carried on a show of hands, although it was opposed by a strong minority.

A proprietor called for a ballot upon this subject, but, in compliance with what appeared to be the general wish of the meeting, he did not insist on this demand.

The chairman, in returning thanks in the name of the directors, took occasion to state that the sum discounted by the bank for brokers during the last ten years amounted to £127,625,573, giving an average for each year of £12,762,557. The sum so discounted last year was £38,028,141, and yet there had been hardly any losses whatever incurred in the course of those immense operations. He thought that those facts afforded the most conclusive proofs of the efficiency with which the business of the establishment had been conducted. (Hear, hear.)

A vote of thanks was then passed to the chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

BANK OF LONDON.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the shareholders in this company was held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, on the 21st of January. Sir J. V. Shelley, Bart., M.P., chairman of the board, presided.

The secretary read the following report and statement of accounts:—

"The directors have pleasure in reporting that business has satisfactorily progressed since they last met the proprietors. A balance statement, showing the position of the bank on December 31, 1857, and a profit and loss account at the same date, are appended, by which it will be seen that after payment of £23,755 7*s.* to customers, for interest on current and deposit accounts, there remained, at that date, a balance of gross profit of £36,727 14*s.* 10*d.*

"Out of this sum have been defrayed current expenses at the Threadneedle-street establishment and the Charing Cross branch, directors' remuneration, and bad and doubtful debts. After passing through a commercial crisis of unparalleled severity, it will be needless to state that the amount of such debts has somewhat exceeded the general average; but your directors have been able, out of the profits of the half-year, to write off all losses, and to make ample provision for doubtful contingencies. They have carried forward to profit and loss new account £3,297 6*s.* 4*d.* for rebate of discount on bills not matured; and they have also written off £724 7*s.* 6*d.*, the expenses incurred in procuring the conviction of Lawson and Cockburn for conspiracy and libel. After making these provisions, the directors have the satisfaction of declaring a dividend upon the paid-up capital for the half-year at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, leaving a balance of £802 17*s.* 2*d.*, to be also carried to the credit of profit and loss new account.

"Your directors have registered the bank under the Bank Act of the last session (20 and 21 Vict., c. 49), in compliance with the requirements of that act. No material alteration in the government or constitution of the bank results from this registration.

"A vacancy in the direction having been caused by the retirement of Mr. Ionides, several duly qualified shareholders have intimated their intention of becoming candidates for the seat, but your directors are of opinion

that the interests of the bank will be best promoted by delaying for the present to fill up the vacancy.

Liabilities and Assets, December 31, 1857.

Dr.

To capital paid up			£300,000 0 0
To reserve fund...	£4,497 17 6		
Half-a-year's interest, at £4 per cent....	89 19 2		
			4,587 16 8
Amount due by the bank on current, deposit, and other accounts			1,114,843 7 10
Amount carried to credit of profit and loss account	£50,483 1 10		
Less amount paid to customers for interest on their balances	23,755 0 0		
			26,727 14 10
			£1,446,158 19 4

Cr.

By investments, viz.:—			
In Government securities	£310,393 11 6		
In other securities	60,898 0 5		
			£371,291 11 11
Freehold premises in Threadneedle-street			75,000 0 0
Bills discounted, loans, and cash			990,635 13 3
Preliminary expenses			6,617 5 5
Lease and buildings at Charing-cross branch, furniture, &c.			2,614 8 9
			£1,446,158 19 4

Profit and Loss Account for the Half-year ending Dec. 31, 1857.

Dr.

To a half-year's current expenses at head office and Charing-cross branch, bad and doubtful debts, income-tax, directors' remuneration, &c.		£14,403 3 10
Rebate of interest on bills discounted not yet due, carried to profit and loss new account		3,297 6 4
Amount written off for expenses incurred in conviction of Lawson and Cockburn for conspiracy and libel		724 7 6
Dividend at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending December 31st, 1857... ...		7,500 0 0
Balance carried to profit and loss new account ...		802 17 2
		£26,727 14 10

Cr.

Balance of profit brought down	£26,727 14 10

(Signed) ROBERT PORTER, GEORGE THOMSON, HENRY ASTE. } *Auditors.*

Examined and approved, *Jan. 16th*, 1858.

The chairman, in moving the reception, adoption, and printing of the report, congratulated the shareholders upon the success of the bank during the last half-year. At the last meeting he stated the course the directors intended to pursue, which was, that of looking cautiously and calmly to the business, taking care to walk before they ran and to run before they attempted to jump. (Hear). They did not look hastily to gaining large profits, but to run no risk, so as to enable the shareholders to lay their heads upon their pillows in the full consciousness that the business of the bank was properly conducted. (Hear, hear). That course had been adopted, and in doing so the directors had followed in the wake of the larger joint-stock banks in London, who had shown that the course they had pursued was one of soundness and security. As a member of Parliament he was anxious to say that during the short session of Parliament the main subject of discussion was what was called the commercial distress of the country; and he had heard on all sides that the joint-stock banks were held up as a main cause—at any rate one of the chief causes of that panic; they were all "tarred with the same brush." He thought that the joint-stock banks did not deserve to be so alluded to. It was perfectly well known that the system which had raised the London joint-stock banks to their pre-eminence was very different from the system adopted by some of the country banks, (hear, hear), and that the practice adopted by some banks, that of re-discounting bills for the purpose of raising money, had never been adopted by this bank. (Hear). They never had on any occasion parted with their bills for such a purpose. (Hear). The proprietors were aware that a committee of the House of Commons had been appointed to inquire into the whole subject of joint-stock banks, and he had no doubt that as regarded the London joint-stock banks the more inquiry was made into them the more satisfactory would be the result; and he was of opinion that this bank could not do better than follow in their wake. He was sure they could be in no better position than to be classed with the other joint-stock banks of London. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the report, after paying £7,500 to the proprietors, and £23,755 7*s.* to the customers, some of it at the rate of 8 per cent., a larger amount than had ever been paid before, the directors now had come to the conclusion that whatever the rate of interest might be charged by the Bank of England, the directors of this bank would never again go beyond 5 per cent. He believed if that course was followed, it would give increased confidence to the public, and moreover, it was a fact, that since the rate of interest had been lowered the deposits had increased. As to the bad and doubtful debts a committee had been appointed, consisting of some of the members of the board, and they had come to what they considered an extreme valuation. The board considered it upon that basis, but felt it right to take them at the sum at which that committee had placed them, viz., £8,734. The directors had no doubt whatever that that sum was an extreme valuation, and would be found more than sufficient to cover all bad and doubtful debts. As to the registration of the bank under the act of last session, that was compulsory, as all banks formed under the provisions of Peel's Act were compelled to register; but that would make no difference whatever in the constitution of the bank. As to the retirement of Mr. Ionides, the directors had reason to believe that shortly they would be able to form a connection of great value to the bank, and under the circumstances they thought it better that that vacancy should not be filled up at present. If that connection was not formed it would be in the power of the proprietors to fill up the vacancy in June next. On the part of the directors, he said they were able to carry on the business with the number now on the board. He then moved the reception and adoption of the report.

Mr. Robert Porter, in seconding the motion, remarked that in the discharge of their duties himself and his brother auditors had directed their attention, not only to the character of the accounts, but to other matters of much importance, viz., the bonâ fide description of the securities, and the nature of the business during the past six months. He was, therefore, in a position to know the exact state of the affairs of the company, and he was very happy to say that every department was in a most satisfactory state, and gave cause for much gratification. (Hear, hear.) The prospects held out in the last report had not only been realised, but greatly exceeded (hear); and it was not a little interesting to know that the gross profits for the half-year nearly came up to those earned during the previous year. (Hear.) He congratulated the shareholders upon the present satisfactory state of affairs, and the prospect of greater success for the future, assuring them that the report was an honest bonâ fide document.

Mr. Gunton directed attention to the fact, that in the June balance-sheet there appeared a loss of something like £7,039, from the depreciation in the value of government securities at that time. It had been suggested to him that, owing to the increase in value that had recently taken place, there had been a re-valuation, and the shareholders were indebted to that circumstance for the present dividend. He wished to know whether such was the case. He might say, however, that he did not believe there had been any re-valuation, but he was anxious to know whether the dividend was declared purely from the earnings of the bank, and not through the accidental circumstance of the increase in the value of government securities.

The chairman was very glad to have the opportunity of answering the question. The matter was very carefully considered by the Board, and while he admitted that, considering the alteration in the value of government securities, it was very tempting to re-value them, still the directors unanimously decided to go on as they had commenced, and that no re-valuation should take place till the end of the financial year in June. They might, therefore, look forward with some amount of satisfaction to the balance-sheet which would be prepared in that month, for the shareholders would then receive the benefit of the improved value of the securities referred to.

After a brief conversation relative to the item for preliminary expenses,

Mr. Smith suggested that the shareholders ought to have been contented with 4 per cent. dividend, instead of 5 per cent.; that would have had the effect of reducing that item, and of increasing the success of the concern for the future, and enlarging the reserve fund.

The chairman said the whole matter had been very well considered by the board of directors; and it was the unanimous opinion that a dividend of 5 per cent. should be declared, as the amount of profit justified such a dividend, and at the end of the financial year they would find themselves in a very satisfactory condition.

The report was then unanimously adopted, and the chairman announced that the dividend would be paid on and after the 28th instant.

A cordial vote of thanks was then passed to the chairman, directors, and other officers, and the meeting separated.

LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK.

THE half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders in this bank was held on the 21st January at the offices in Princes-street, for the purpose of receiving the report, &c., Mr. Wm. Bird (chairman of the board of directors) presiding.

After the usual preliminaries, the secretary read the following report:—

"The annexed accounts exhibit the position of the bank on the 31st ult., and it will be seen that, after providing for all losses and charges, there remains a net profit of £83,566 9*s*., which the directors have appropriated as follows, viz,—

£37,500	0	0	to a dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum.
37,000	0	0	to a bonus of 10*s*. per share.
16,066	9	0	to the credit of the guarantee fund.

"By the above addition and the accruing interest the guarantee fund is raised to £187,014 9*s*. 1*d*., and the directors feel very confident that this augmentation of their reserve will be satisfactory to the shareholders, when viewed in connection with the enlarged scale of the bank's operations.

"The dividend and bonus, free from income tax, will be payable on and after Friday, the 29th instant.

"The following gentlemen, who retire in the order of rotation—viz., Sir James Duke, Bart., M.P., Ambrose Moore, Esq., William Bird, Esq., and John Timothy Oxley, Esq., offer themselves for re-election; and the lamented death of Archibald Hastie, Esq., M.P., having caused another vacancy at the board, Donald Larnach, Esq., a duly qualified shareholder, who has given the necessary notice, presents himself as a candidate for the vacant seat.

"The directors cannot allow this opportunity to pass without some expression of their high sense of the honourable character of their deceased friend and colleague, whose zealous exertions were never wanting when required to promote the interest of the bank, and they feel assured that the proprietors will participate in their regret for his loss.

"The shareholders have already been apprised by advertisement of the recent retirement from the direction of Thomas Tilson, Esq., who having undertaken important public duties, has considered it necessary, much to the regret of his brother directors, to resign his seat at the board.

"An extraordinary meeting of proprietors will be called for the 1st of April next, to elect his successor.

Liabilities and Assets, Thursday, December 31, 1857.

Dr.						
To capital paid-up, viz., 60,000 shares at £10 each ...					£600,000	0 0
Amount due by the bank					10,737.580	19 4
Amount of "the guarantee fund," 30th June, 1857			168,421	13 7		
Six months' interest on ditto, at £3 per annum			2,526	6 6		
					170,941	0 1
Undivided profit for the last half-year...			9,246	19 3		
Amount carried to profit and loss account			157,107	14 4		
					166,354	13 7
					£11,674,883	13 0

Cr.

By Exchequer Bills, India Bonds, and Government Stock			£1,199,644	1 1
Cash, loans, bills discounted, and other securities ...			10,431,664	11 11
Building, furniture, &c., in Princes Street	£35,700	0 0		
Ditto ditto in Pall Mall	7,875	0 0		
			43,575	0 0
			£11,674,883	13 0

Profit and Loss Account for the Half-year ending December 31, 1857.

Dr.

To current expenses, proportion of building expenses, directors' remuneration, bad debts, income tax, &c.	£40,959	1 6
Amount carried to profit and loss, new account, being rebate of interest on bills discounted not yet due...	41,829	3 1
Dividend account for the payment of half-year's dividend, at the rate of £12 10*s.* per centum per annum, upon £600,000, amount of paid-up capital upon £60,000 shares...	37,500	0 0
Ditto, for the payment of a bonus of 10*s.* per share...	30,000	0 0
Amount carried to the guarantee fund	16,066	9 0
	£166,354	13 7

Cr.

By balance brought down	£157,107	14 4
Undivided profit brought forward from the last half-year	9,246	19 3
	£166,354	13 7

The chairman—By the authority of the board of directors he had to recommend that a dividend for the half-year ending 31st December last, at and after the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital of £600,000, upon 60,000 shares of £10 each, together with a bonus of 10*s.* per share, out of the net profits, amounting to £30,000, free from income tax, be payable on and after Friday, the 29th instant; and he now begged to move that the report be received and printed for the use of the shareholders.

Mr. George Meek (a director) seconded the resolution.

Mr. Josiah Wilson begged to ask a question. Why was this sum of £16,066 carried to the credit of the guarantee fund?

The chairman replied that the difference in the amount of the liabilities of the bank at the present moment, when compared with those of former years, was shown by the accounts. They had now extended their business in a considerable degree, a fact which was shown on the face of the accounts; and it was the opinion of the directors that the guarantee fund—guaranteeing as it did the bad debts of the bank on the one hand, and the dividend on the other—should, in times like these, be increased or augmented to a moderate extent.

Mr. Wilson did not feel quite satisfied with the reply. He thought the amount should have gone to the profit and loss account; but as it had been

carried to the guarantee fund, he supposed it must remain there, as they could not now alter it. His opinion was that they could not touch the guarantee fund to equalise a dividend; but he should like the chairman to give him some explanation on that point. He believed that if they had anything, as shown by the accounts, that they could divide, they could not take anything from the guarantee fund. There was another question which he wished to ask, and that was why the dividend was not paid before the 29th, considering that they had met here on the 21st. The bankers had the money, and therefore why could it not be paid before, when there were many persons who came to town purposely to receive their dividends? Some of his own friends who lived in the country had come up on purpose to receive their dividends, and they always complained that the London Joint-stock Bank was the latest.

A Shareholder—The London and Westminster don't pay their dividends till the 29th.

Mr. Valentine Knight thought the directors had exercised a very wise discretion in placing the £16,000 to the guarantee fund; for although he was as fond of a large dividend, as that of 22 per cent., as any other proprietor, still he liked to see a good guarantee fund. (Hear, hear.) He believed the directors had the power to extract from the guarantee fund to equalise a dividend, but he trusted they would never have occasion to do so. (Hear.) When they looked at the extent of the business of the bank, the guarantee fund being under £200,000, he thought it was quite small enough. As to the payment of the dividend sooner than the 29th, he had no objection to wait till that time, but then he had no country friends like Mr. Wilson. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Hodgkinson confessed that he was surprised to see so large a sum as £16,000 carried to the guarantee fund, and he reminded the meeting of the time when the guarantee fund question created considerable discussion. He believed that on former occasions there was an arrangement—certainly it might be an implied one—which was come to between the directors and the shareholders; but that contract had been broken by placing £16,000 to the guarantee fund. If they had one-fourth of the paid-up capital that would be quite sufficient for any guarantee fund. He could not see what they wanted with so large a sum as £187,000, for money was pouring into the bank, and he should have expected they would have been rather without than with it. He should like to know what the guarantee fund did. Let them look back at the perilous times they had just passed through. They had a guarantee to the extent of more than a quarter of their capital, which would only be £150,000. The capital and the guarantee fund were one and the same thing, and if anything unfortunate had occurred to this bank they would have lost it all. He thought it was wrong at a time like this to take the £16,000 to the guarantee fund, when a portion of it might have been divided. He was very sorry the directors had taken such a step.

Mr. Wilson believed there was a resolution passed some time ago restricting the guarantee fund to £150,000.

The secretary said no such resolution had been passed.

Mr. Ambrose Moore (director) said it was only a suggestion made to the directors, but no motion was made on the subject.

Mr. Hodgkinson thought it had been a proper understanding.

Mr. Ambrose Moore—If gentlemen would look to former reports of their proceedings they would find that there were discussions upon the subject of the guarantee fund as to the propriety of limiting it to £150,000. The board of directors promised to take the matter into consideration; and having done so, said that the guarantee fund should be £150,000 only, the interest

to be added with any such fractional sums as could not be divided. But at that time the liabilities were £5,000,000, while now they were £11,000,000. It was not understood, perhaps, what it was for. The guarantee fund had two objects, viz., to guard the bank against any large losses that might occur, and to enable the directors to equalise a dividend. If the profits would not enable the directors to give the dividend, they could go to the guarantee fund; in fact it had been done three or four times.

Mr. Hodgkinson—For a bonus, you mean?

Mr. A. Moore said it was quite the reverse, for they were not empowered to give a bonus out of the guarantee fund. He did not see so much cause of complaint, when they had reserved £187,000 for the objects he had named, and at the same time could give a dividend of 12½ per cent., while if they met with a loss they could meet that out of the profit and loss account for the current half-year. According to Mr. Hodgkinson's argument, that a reserve fund was an incubus, any banker might go on without any capital at all. His opinion was that it was the best course to have a large guarantee fund, because large losses could be met by it. They did not make it so large for the safety of the bank, for £16,000 could not make the bank safe. It was merely done to meet any large losses that might occur. He felt that, considering the present state of affairs, the result had been more than most sanguine shareholders could expect; and, therefore, that the directors should be rather applauded than condemned for what they had done.

Mr. Wilson wanted to know why the £16,000 was not left in its legitimate account, that of profit and loss?

Mr. A. Moore said, by their deed of settlement they were bound to divide it, or put it to the guarantee fund.

Mr. Wilson said that explanation was quite satisfactory; but he also wanted to know whether they had made sufficient provision for the losses that were anticipated during the next half-year? He also thought the directors ought in courtesy to have asked the permission of the shareholders before they placed the £16,000 to the guarantee fund.

The chairman said that ample allowance had been made for any loss or contingency that was probable to arise from bad debts. Their losses during the previous half-year had been only £4,000, and they had put down £19,000 to meet anticipated losses. Their bad debts had been very small considering the time they had gone through.

Mr. Wilson said he was perfectly satisfied with the answer, and was glad the £16,000 had been placed to the guarantee fund intact. He wished to know whether the shareholders were to be subject to the permanent increase of the guarantee fund? Because he feared that they had taken away 5*s.* out of 15*s.* which they ought to have received.

Mr. George Hoggett Foster said he had had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Wilson at these meetings ever since the commencement of this bank, and he was sorry his memory was so short as to have led him to make the inquiries he had put to the directors, as to whether they had contemplated the contingency of bad debts, because there might be an impression on the minds of new proprietors which would be erroneous. He begged to state that from the commencement of the business at the end of each half-year, the board always had a valuation made of all bad or doubtful debts, at what they believed to be a fair and legitimate estimate (hear), whether in reference to stocks, bills, exchequer bills, or other securities. They had always made a fair and rigid valuation; but not an excessive one; for on the contrary they had almost invariably had to take back from their profit and loss account sums which were assumed by them to be bad debts. (Hear, hear.) The fact being so, he was sure that the proprietors would be

satisfied that the accounts presented that day were based on correct data and bona fides, and that everything was exhibited to maintain that confidence and good feeling which ought always to exist between directors and shareholders. (Hear, hear.) As to the guarantee fund and the supposition that they ought to charge a higher rate of interest upon it (an opinion which he knew had been expressed by some proprietors on various occasions) that was a matter which was fixed by the deed of trust. At the commencement of the bank that rate of interest was fixed at 3 per cent. as a fair rate of interest to be credited on the guarantee fund, and it was decided that that interest should accumulate in successive years, therefore it would be improper to go below 3 per cent., as it would be equally contrary to the trust deed to raise it to that amount when money was worth a higher rate of interest. It was impossible it could carry any higher rate. As to the balance being carried to profit and loss, he trusted the question had now been answered. Now, with regard to the further augmentation of the guarantee he must be permitted to say that he believed there was no body of the directors that had the confidence of the shareholders more completely than those of the London Joint-stock Bank, and he therefore thought the question of increasing the guarantee fund should be left to their discretion. The liabilities of the bank had been doubled since it had been suggested to limit the amount of that fund to £150,000; and therefore they consider it prudent to enlarge it, so as to make provision for the safety of the proprietors and the public. He hoped that the meeting would show that they cordially agreed in the steps which had been taken by the directors.

A shareholder said that, admitting all that had been said by the chairman and by the last speaker, he thought there was less occasion for the directors deviating from the course which they had originally intended to pursue; and considering the small amount of bad debts, all honour was due to the directors for making so little; but, considering that ample provision had been made for bad debts, he was not singular in thinking that there was no reason why they should not divide the whole of the profits they had made. (Cries of "No, no.")

Mr. East said that the proprietors owed a debt of gratitude to the directors for the manner in which they had conducted the business of the bank. Were hon. proprietors not satisfied with 22½ per cent.? He thought this matter should be left to the discretion of the directors, and that a special vote of thanks should be passed to them. So far from thinking they should diminish the reserve or guarantee fund, he would always have it at an amount of one-third of their capital.

A proprietor asked whether the hon. gentleman meant to say there should be no limit to the fund?

Mr. East would only contend that that was a matter which should be left to the discretion of the directors, in whom they reposed the greatest confidence.

Mr. Mortimer said he should have moved a vote of censure on the directors if they had not augmented the guarantee fund. Their liabilities were three millions more than they were last year, and the increase of £16,000 was very moderate. He thought it should be left to to the discretion of the directors.

The chairman (in answer to Mr. Billing) said they had taken 7½ per cent. as the rebate on the bills discounted but not due.

The motion was then put and agreed to unanimously.

The chairman then declared the dividend at the rate of 22½ per cent. per annum on paid-up capital of the company, and also a bonus of 10*s.* per share out of the net profits on the 60,000 paid-up shares of the company.

Sir James Duke, Bart., M.P., Mr. Ambrose Moore, Mr. William Bi and Mr. J. Timothy Oxley, were then re-elected directors, and Mr. Dou Larnach was elected in the room of the late Mr. Archibald Hastie, M.P.

Mr. East proposed a special vote of thanks to the directors for the cauti they had evinced in adding the £16,000 to the guarantee fund.

Mr. Valentine Knight seconded the motion, which having been support by several hon. proprietors, was agreed to.

The chairman, on behalf of himself and brother directors, return thanks, and said they would one and all devote themselves to the interes of the proprietors.

A vote of thanks was then passed to Mr. Pollard, the manager, whi having been briefly responded to,

The usual compliments to the chairman closed the proceedings.

Communications.

To the Editor of the "Bankers' Magazine."

ADHESIVE STAMPS.

Sir,—I beg to call your attention and the attention of your readers the great slovenliness displayed by bankers and the public generally in t cancelling of adhesive stamps on cheques and foreign bills of exchan By 16 and 17 Vict., c. 59, sect. 4, the person affixing an adhesive receipt draft stamp is required to "cancel the stamp so used by writing there his name, or the initial letters of his name," the penalty for not doing being £10. By 17 and 18 Vict. c. 83, sect. 5, the holder of any bill exchange drawn out of the United Kingdom is required before negotiati it to affix an adhesive stamp, and to "cancel the stamp so affixed writing thereon his name or the name of his firm and the date of the d and year on which he shall so write the same," the penalty of omission this case being £50; and no person who shall take or receive such b either in payment or otherwise, without its having the proper stamp affix and cancelled in terms of the act, "shall be entitled to recover thereon."

Any one who has much to do with bills and country cheques will be me out when I say that these enactments are systematically broken n only by the public but by bank officials, who ought to know better.

Yours respectfully,

Manchester, 9th December, 1857. Lex.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

Sir,—A country banker receives from the Bank of England (say Bristo a cheque or draft, with a request that the amount be paid over in Lond ot their credit, which request is attended to by first post.

The country banker next day sends a draft to the Bristol Branch of t Bank of England, with a request that the amount be paid over in Lond The amount is in due course advised to the Bank of England in Lond but there it remains until the London agent of the country banker sends clerk for the amount; so that the clerk of the London agent has to c at the Bank of England on both occasions.

I cannot understand why the Bank of England should not do to oth as they would be done by.

It appears to me that the time has arrived when an alteration ought to be made, and that clerks should be sent out by the Bank of England as well as by other bankers in London.

I am, sir, yours,
A SUBSCRIBER.

17*th December*, 1857.

STALE CHEQUE.

SIR,—Will you have the goodness to state in your next number when a cheque drawn upon a banker is legally out of date. I have hitherto understood that the date of a cheque is recognised if within six months; but I have now had a cheque refused payment by a banker because it was dated in August last.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
A SUBSCRIBER.

11*th January*, 1858.

[Our impression is that six months is the general rule, but we do not think the law prescribes that exact period. It is probable some discretion would be allowed to a banker.]

CHEQUE WITH RESTRICTIVE INDORSEMENT.

SIR,—Will you please favour me with your opinion on the following? Suppose a cheque to be drawn above fifteen miles from where it is payable, duly stamped, with the words "or bearer" not erased, and the same is endorsed by the payee to a second party "or order," is the banker bound to take notice of this, and therefore require the endorsement of the second party, or only to observe the face of the cheque which is payable to bearer?

I am, sir, yours respectfully,
A SUBSCRIBER.

[We think the banker is justified in obeying the direction contained on the face of the cheque, but we shall in the present and subsequent numbers enter fully into the subject of restrictive and varying indorsements on cheques and bills.]

Notes of the Month.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—An account of the gross public income and expenditure for the year ended the 30th day of September last has been laid before the Hon. the House of Commons. The total income amounted to the sum of £71,178,662, and the total concurrent or collateral expenditure to the sum of £70,694,325, leaving an excess or balance of income to the amount of £484,336. The items of income are as follows: — Customs, £23,106,510; Excise, £17,519,000); stamps, £7,346,223; land and assessed taxes, £3,099,020; income-tax, £15,753,023; Post-office, £2,930,000; and Crown lands, £277,654. The items of expenditure are:—£28,726,183 for the interest and management of the public debt; £2,913,786 for the charges on the consolidated fund (including the

civil list, pensions, salaries, and allowances, courts of justice, and miscellaneous charges; £14,336,556 for the army; £10,665,000 for the navy; £900,000 for the expedition to Persia; £6,848,316 for "miscellaneous civil services;" and £4,304,482 for the salaries, &c., of the revenue department; £2,000,000 was applied to redeem Exchequer bonds. Among the charges on the consolidated fund is one of £1,125,206, being the compensation to His Majesty the King of Denmark, for the abolition of the sound dues or toll on ships. The balances remaining in the Exchequer on the 30th of September amounted to the sum of £7,963,015.

Trade of Russia and other Foreign Countries.—A blue book, published by order of Parliament, gives abstracts of reports on the trade of various foreign countries and places for the years 1856-57, received by the Board of Trade through the medium of the Foreign-office, from our ministers and consuls abroad. The report from Russia includes five districts. The trade of Moscow (the ancient capital) consists in woollen, silk, and cotton goods, and the manufacture of worsted stuffs has lately been rapidly increasing. Silk is a very important staple, about 35,000 poods of raw silk (chiefly Circassian) being employed for manufacturing purposes every year. Cotton manufactures are also being developed with amazing rapidity, although under a system of severe protective duties. The printing establishments in Russia have attained a degree of perfection equal to that of the French and English. The machinery employed comes from England, France, Belgium, and Germany. The inland trade of Moscow embraces all the produce of the soil and manufactures of the empire. The business of the great fair at Nishni-Novgorod amounts to 50,000,000 or 60,000,000 roubles. The only export article of importance is sheep's wool, of which Moscow is the chief entrepôt. The number of merchants engaged in the three "guilds" of Moscow is 5,900, and the capital declared by them as engaged in trade about 7,000,000 roubles. The trade of Taganrog is reviving fast, and two important projects at present occupy public attention—one a company subsidised by the Crown for maintaining numerous steamers in the Black Sea and Azof, for commercial purposes; and the other, the construction of railways in various parts of the empire, including a line to unite Moscow and Theodosia. A new tariff is shortly expected. The Warsaw trade is brisk; at the fair of this year goods to the amount of 269,683*l.* were brought for sale, and sales effected to the amount of 108,895*l.* Eight bankers brought to the fair 242,166*l.*, and disposed of 185,166*l.* Sugar was dull; books sold to the amount of about 1,200*l.* Manufactured goods were dearer than in 1856. Spirits found an easy sale. As regards Finland, it appears that the exports thence to Russia last year amounted to 43,625*l.*, and the imports thither from Russia to 263,606*l.* Shipbuilding has been resumed, and a great many new vessels were to be launched. The exports from Wiborg in 1856 amounted to 173,253*l.*, and the imports included 1,424,360lb. of sugar, and 1,571, 180lb. of coffee. The Trade of Wiborg has increased greatly of late years. This much as regards the trade of Russia.

The London, Harwich, and Continental Steam Packet Company.—At the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 13th January, a call of £10 per share was made in the case of the London, Harwich, and Continental Steam Packet Company; Mr. Commissioner Goulburn stated that it was important the public should know that in the amended act for the winding-up of Joint-Stock companies, there was a provision empowering the official liquidator to compromise with parties unable to pay their calls in full.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

Dec.—Messrs. Lupton, Hooton, and Co., London, Manchester trade.
Messrs. Hinton Brothers, and Co., London, Italian merchants.
Jan.—Messrs. Richard H. Whitfield and Co., London, West India and General Commission merchants.
Messrs. Thomas Callander and Co., Glasgow, hide and leather factors.
Messrs. Mitchell, Miller, and Ogilvie, Glasgow, wholesale warehousemen.
Messrs. J. and W. Wallace, Glasgow, sewed muslin manufacturers.
Mr. John Ewan, Dundee, manufacturer and export merchant.
Messrs. William Clapperton and Co., Glasgow, general merchants.
Messrs. James Bannatyne and Son, Limerick, general merchants.
Messrs. Arthur and Co., Glasgow, warehousemen.
Messrs. Joseph Bainbridge and Son, Rotherhithe, timber merchants.
Messrs. Bishop and Gissing, London, wholesale stationers.
Messrs. Charles Walton and Son, shipowners and ship and insurance brokers.
Mr. A. Duclos, Marseilles, South American hide trade.
Messrs. Matthew Plummer and Co., Newcastle, general merchants.
Messrs. Clarke, Plummer, and Co., Newcastle, flax merchants.
Messrs. Smith, Russell, and Co., Louisville, U.S., soap and candle manufacturers.

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

Dec. 29.—Suspension announced of Messrs. Lupton, Hooton, and Co., in the Manchester trade, with liabilities amounting to £29,000.

29.—Failure of Messrs. Hinton, Brothers, and Co., Italian merchants.

Jan. 1.—The rate of discount at Hamburg reduced to 4½ per cent.

4.—Suspension of Messrs. Richard H. Whitfield and Co., West India and general commission merchants, with liabilities amounting to about £45,000.

4.—Stoppage of Messrs. Thomas Callander and Co., hide and leather factors, of Glasgow.

4.—Failure of Messrs. Mitchell, Miller, and Ogilvie, wholesale warehousemen, Glasgow; liabilities about £80,000.

4.—Suspension of Messrs. J. and W. Wallace, sewed muslin manufacturers, Glasgow; liabilities estimated at £250,000.

4.—Failure of Mr. John Ewan, manufacturer and export merchant, Dundee; liabilities about £50,000.

6.—The Bank of Belgium reduced their rate of discount to 4½ per cent.

7.—News arrived in England of the death of General Sir Henry Havelock, which took place on the 25th of November; also of the defeat of the troops under General Windham by the Gwalior mutineers, and their subsequent defeat by Sir Colin Campbell.

7.—The directors of the Bank of England reduced their rate of discount from 8 to 7 per cent.

7.—Failure of Messrs. William Clapperton and Co., general merchants, of Glasgow.

8.—Stoppage of Messrs. James Bannatyne and Son, general merchants, Limerick, with liabilities reaching £50,000.

11.—The rate of discount at Hamburg, which had declined to 2½, again raised to 3 per cent.

11.—Suspension of Messrs. Arthur and Co., warehousemen, of Glasgow. At a subsequent meeting of creditors the balance-sheet showed a surplus of £90,000.

11.—Failure of Messrs. Joseph Bainbridge and Son, timber merchants, Rotherhithe, with £10,000 liabilities.

14.—Attempt to assassinate the Emperor of the French whilst proceeding to the opera accompanied by the Empress. About 140 persons killed and wounded. Several of the assassins apprehended.

14.—The directors of the Bank of England further reduced the rate of discount from 7 to 6 per cent.

14.—The acceptances of Messrs. Bishop and Gissing, wholesale stationers, returned.

18.—The Bank of Holland reduced its rate of discount from 6 to 5 per cent.

19.—Suspension announced of Messrs. Charles Walton and Son, shipowners and ship and insurance brokers, with liabilities amounting to £85,000.

19.—Failure of Mr. A. Duclos, in the South American hide trade, Marseilles. Liabilities said to be about £300,000.

20.—Failure of Messrs. Matthew Plummer and Co., general merchants, Newcastle.

20.—Failure of Messrs. Clarke, Plummer, and Co., of the Northumberland Flax Mills, Newcastle.

25.—Marriage celebrated between the Princess Royal of England and Prince Frederick William of Prussia.

26.—Announcement of the failure of Messrs. Smith, Russell, and Co., soap and candle manufacturers, Louisville, U.S.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 1858.

The course of operations in financial and mercantile affairs during the past month has not been very important. There has been almost an entire cessation of failures, money now has become extremely abundant, and the general expectation is, that the value will rule at a low point for some short period. The Bank directors have at the last moment reduced their minimum terms of discount to 4 per cent., and such is the plethora out of doors, that the London and Westminster will now only allow 2 per cent. for deposits above £500. In the meanwhile business is limited; gold continues to flow into the vaults of the Bank of England, and there appears the prospect of the stock of bullion again shortly reaching £16,000,000. From the extreme of pressure we have now experienced a reaction to the extreme of ease, and the consequence is that temporary inactivity will no doubt ensue. The exchanges for the present continue favourable, but should an adverse movement take place, a drain would no doubt follow, which would have the effect of interfering with a prolonged abundance. After some three or four months of great stringency, during which it was impossible to obtain the slightest accommodation, the general complaint now uttered is with regard to the difficulty of employing money, and the terms for the negociation of first-class paper do not certainly exceed 3 to 3¼ per cent. An attempt has been made to revive speculation, by the introduction of some new projects for Brazilian and Cape Railways, but they have at present attracted little attention.

English Stocks have exhibited a range of nearly 2 per cent. The business has not been extensive, but it has principally proved on the favourable side. The dealers who have purchased have exhibited a disposition to realize now quotations have attained an elevation to 95, and since this point has been passed, the tendency to weakness has slightly increased. Exchequer bills from par have run up to 26*s.* premium, and Bank stock has also steadily improved. The public are not now purchasers to any great extent, they having got into stock when prices were depreciated.

Foreign securities are firmer, but the operations have not proved exten-

sive. The advance in prices, however, is from ½ to 2 per cent., and the speculators show a greater disposition to purchase. Russian, Mexcian and Turkish may be considered to have presented the principal alteration, though there is still a tendency to partial reaction. Peruvian, Brazilian and Buenos Ayres exhibit firmness. The speculative transactions have been very limited.

Railway shares have fluctuated to the extent of £3 or £4 per share, but prices have recovered since the early part of the month. The reduction in the rate of discount at the Bank of England and the greater disposition of the public to purchase are circumstances which have influenced quotations, and the market now shows firmness where formerly heaviness was apparent. The dividends of the half-year are expected to be firmly supported, but in some instances it may be feared that the amount of distribution will be diminished. Traffic, through the stagnation of trade, exhibits a decrease.

The transactions in joint-stock bank shares have been more numerous since the results of the half-yearly meetings have been ascertained. The upward movement has not been very marked, but it is still sufficient to show the course of dealing pursued by the public. Business in this department is altogether firmer.

The following are the fluctuations in English and Foreign Stocks, and Railway Shares, during the month just concluded :—

	Price on Dec. 29.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Jan. 28th.
English Funds.				
Consols	93¾-94x.d.	95¼	93½ ex. d.	95¼-95⅜
Exchequer bills	par 3*s.* pm.	26*s.* pm.	par.	20*s.* to 23*s.* pm.
Foreign Stocks.				
Brazilian	98¼	102½	98¼	102½
Buenos Ayres	94	97½	94	96⅜
Chilian	102½	103⅜	102	103
Dutch, 2½ per cent.	65¼	65¼	64¼	65¼
Mexican	20⅜	21¼	20¼	21
Peruvian, 4½ per cent.	77	80⅛	76½	78½
Russian	107	110⅞	107	110½
Spanish	42	42	41	41⅜
Turkish, 6 per cent.	97⅜	99½	97	98¼
Ditto, 4 per cent.	102⅛	105⅛	102	105
Railway Shares.				
Brighton	106	112½	105	109⅜
Caledonian	84	91½	83	91⅜
Eastern Counties	58½	63⅜	57½	62½
Great Northern	98¼ ex.d.	105	97½ ex. d.	104⅜
Great Western	54½	63	54	59⅜
Lancashire and Yorkshire... ...	94½	97	93	93⅜
London and North Western ...	97½	102½	96½	100⅜
Midland	89⅜	95½	89	94⅜
North Staffordshire	14	15	13⅞	14½
South Eastern	70	76½	69½	75½
South Western	95	100	94	98½
York, Newcastle, and Berwick ...	96¼	100	95½	97⅜
York and North Midland	84	87⅜	83½	83⅜
East Indian...	110½	114½	107 x.int.	108½
Northern of France	37⅞	39⅞	37⅞	38½

THE GRAIN TRADE.

The extremely propitious weather for agricultural operations, and the accounts from all quarters of the favourable appearance of the early sown crops, have had the effect of keeping the price of grain, without any particular alteration during the month. In the early part the tendency was rather upwards, which is to be attributed to the restricted supplies of home-grown at market, caused by farmers being too much occupied with out-door work to attend to thrashing. Within the last week or two, however, samples have been more freely offered, and as they have been in a much improved condition, prices have not been so firm, though the alteration in quotations has not been material.

The *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been :—

Week ending 1857.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
Dec. 26	95,634	... 47 5	... 49 3	... 1 0	... 61 1
1858.					
Jan. 2	85,188	... 47 7	... 48 7	... 1 0	... 60 2
„ 9	83,674	... 47 10	... 48 4	... 1 0	... 59 8
„ 16	117,485	... 48 8	... 48 4	... 1 0	... 59 5

The importations since the harvest of 1857 have been :—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total Qrs.
Twenty-two weeks ended 16th Dec. ...	1,727,183	1,822,450	3,549,633
Four weeks ended 13th Jan., 1858 ...	344,712	180,838	525,550
	2,071,895	2,003,288	4,075,183

And the *weekly averages* have been :—

Twenty-two weeks ended 16th Dec. ...	78,000	83,000	161,000
Four weeks ended 13th Jan., 1858 ...	86,000	45,000	131,000
	More 8,000	Less 38,000	Less 30,000

STATE OF TRADE.

Business in the manufacturing districts has been very limited, and although the easier state of the money market has caused greater confidence, the operations either for home consumption or export have not increased. The system of long credit and accommodation paper has received a severe blow and heavy discouragement from the exposures attending the meetings of creditors at Bradford, and it is to be hoped that more prudent proceedings will in future be adopted.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Although the present is a double number we are still in arrear with reviews, letters, &c. Correspondents will please remember that letters to ensure punctual insertion should be forwarded by the 22nd of the month. Reports of provincial banks are always acceptable.

R. S. (Sudbury).—The transaction is one which can be compromised without interfering with the position of either party.

Verax (Nottingham).—A favourable offer; but look well to the guarantee.

Beauchamp.—The bank in question suspended in the panic of 1847, but subsequently recovered its difficulties and resumed business.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE;

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

MARCH, 1858.

BANKING BY LIMITED LIABILITY.

Again the question has been brought under the consideration of Parliament, whether the same principle of limited liability which, by the Act of 1856, may be made applicable to all other trading associations carried on by means of joint-stock capital, ought not to be extended to joint-stock banking companies? Mr. Headlam, who has taken up the subject with a degree of earnestness and determination which augurs eventual success, has re-introduced it to the notice of the House of Commons, in the shape of a short bill for repealing so much of the Joint-Stock Banking Companies Act of 1857 as prohibits banking companies from registering under that act with limited liability, and for establishing such safeguards as shall prevent the abuse of the privilege. It is difficult to form an opinion as to what may be the fate of any measure from the proceedings of the initiatory stage; but from the tone and temper with which the proposition for leave to introduce the bill was received by the House, it is not improbable, unless the more important political considerations which are just now agitating the public mind interpose an impediment, that the present session will witness the accomplishment of the honourable member for Newcastle's object. Sir Cornewall Lewis, who, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, spoke in behalf of Lord Palmerston's Government, intimated no decided objection to the proposed innovation, except as to banks of issue, and rather led the House to believe that with regard to banks of deposit the change would meet with his sanction. The private banking interest, as represented by Mr. Henry Drummond, still adheres to Lord Overstone's view—that in banking, especially, the old principle of unlimited liability is the sound one; while Mr. Hankey, who may claim to be somewhat of an authority, hesitates not to enrol himself in the ranks of what the friends of the bill will probably call the cause of progress.

Such being the state of the case in Parliament, it becomes matter for inquiry how the contemplated reversal of a long recognised principle of law is likely to operate. First, whether it will tend to strengthen or to impair the credit of banking institutions generally; secondly, whether it is possible to provide for the public those securities against the fraudulent appropriation of their money, or as far as they are concerned, the reckless usage of it, by those with whom they intrust it for safe keeping, which they have a right to look for; and, lastly, whether it will tend to the profit and advantage of those establishments who may think proper to avail themselves of it?

There can be little doubt that the argument in favour of the extension of the limited liability principle to joint-stock banking, now that it is admitted in reference to every other class of joint-stock trading, sounds more than plausible. While discount companies, which carry on many of the monetary functions of banks in the present day — receiving money on deposit at interest from the public and lending it out in the shape of discounts—are permitted to trade with limited liability, it appears unfair and unjust to withhold the same privilege from the competing institutions; and if it can be conceded with due regard to the public interest, they have unquestionably a right to demand it; the result upon their own credit and their own ultimate profit being a matter for their own consideration, and theirs only. There is another reason in favour of the concession. The surplus and the floating capital of the country is increasing year by year to an enormous extent. Some statists have calculated the increase at not less than £70,000,000 per annum. For the safe investment and profitable employment of this constantly growing aggregate of wealth it is necessary to encourage and promote all possible facilities. Looking at the extraordinary success which in the metropolis especially, the joint-stock banks have with some few exceptions achieved, and the still more extraordinary profits many of them have divided, it is natural to infer that a large proportion of that wealth is only waiting for the opportunity to be embarked in this particular department of mercantile enterprise. Nor can it be doubted that the removal of that restriction which the liability of every bank shareholder to his last acre and his last shilling for the debts of the bank imposes, would induce many who now hold back or perhaps embark in speculations of a questionable character to invest their spare capital in banking business, and that at the outset at least many joint-stock banks founded upon the limited liability principle would spring up. Some of the most modern or the least successful of the existing joint-stock banks may also be expected to avail themselves of the new

r, but that any of the old established and prosperous banks l, for the sake of immunity from a risk which is never ·ly to be incurred, alter their character and hazard a loss of ·stige and of confidence is hardly to be believed. In some e instances, when the list of directors comprises the names of n of more than ordinary talent, probity and high station, se new institutions may compete successfully with those ch remain upon the unlimited liability principle; but as a e, the extent of liability will always be an element of great ght in the rivalry for public confidence in banking.

t is argued, in reference to the matter of security, that it is the business of the state to interpose at all—that the public ght to be left to themselves—that they will know how to ke their own bargains for their own benefit—and that what true of all other trades is equally true of banking, that the er restrictions you impose upon it the more will it flourish, d the greater will be the security afforded to the public. In e abstract this may be true also, but unfortunately events, with hich the commercial and financial world are but too painfully miliar, go far to disprove the theory. Was it in consequence f any legislative restriction that the Royal British Bank was nabled to carry on, from the very commencement, that system f wild speculation and fraud which resulted in the ruin of many ndreds of innocent persons, and in the indictment of the direc- ors upon a criminal charge? Or can it be fairly said—though he argument advanced by Mr. Headlam and other advocates f the bill goes to that extent—that had the liability of the artners in the Western Bank of Scotland, and the other joint- tock banking establishments which failed during the recent anic, been limited to the nominal capital represented by their hares, they would have been enabled to weather the storm, or hat failing to do so, their creditors would have had a better r an equal chance of recovering their money?

Many of the objections which might be advanced on the ground of security the present bill meets. In the first place, it removes the difficulty started by Sir Cornewall Lewis respecting banks of issue, by distinctly providing in the first clause, "that no banking company claiming to issue notes in England shall be entitled to be registered as a limited company until it shall have relinquished such privilege under the 24th section of the 7th and 8th Vict., cap. 23." The introduction of this proviso will indubitably facilitate the passing of the bill, because, how- ever right it may be to say to the depositing public, "You are free to place your money in what bank you please, and to make what bargain you please for your own benefit—you have no right o look to the Legislature for any security beyond that which

the ordinary criminal law gives against fraud, wheresoever can be proved," it is altogether a different thing when we co to deal with that which the Legislature itself has raised to t dignity of a currency, and which as such becomes, within certa limits, the medium of exchange in the ordinary business transa tions of every-day life. The other safeguards which the auth of this measure proposes to enact are stated—with an absen of circumlocution and technical law phraseology which is real remarkable in a bill emanating from a member of the leg profession—in the third clause. It is there declared, that—

"Every limited joint-stock banking company shall, before it co mences business, and also on the 1st day of January in every ye during which it carries on business, annex to a copy of the memorandu of association a statement of the number of shares issued, and t amount of deposit or calls made on each share, in the form contained the schedule hereto, or as near thereto as circumstances will admit, a a copy of such memorandum, with such statement annexed there shall be put up in a conspicuous place in the registered office of t company; and if default is made in due compliance with the provisio of this section, each director shall be liable to a penalty not exceedi £5 for every day during which such default continues, and such pen ties shall be recovered in a summary manner."

One other provision in the shape of security which M Headlam hinted at as desirable when he asked the House Commons to allow him to bring in the bill was, that "eve such bank should be required, on or before registration, to p up one-half of the whole nominal capital." But this forms part of the enacting clauses, in consequence, as he explained, the difficulty of introducing it.

Without desiring to cavil unnecessarily with a measure whi is introduced for the laudable object of multiplying the mea for the profitable and reproductive investment of capital, it m be fairly open to debate whether these securities and safeguar are such as will satisfy the public, afford the requisite securi to the shareholders, and attract to these new institutions th amount of patronage which will make them remunerative those who embark in the speculation. The amount of capit paid up will be no satisfactory indication to the customers the bank of anything beyond the extent of liability still attac ing to the shareholders. Whether or not the deposits paid have been misappropriated, or frittered away in futile attemp to realise large profits by dealing in doubtful paper or engagi in improper speculation, there will be no means of ascertaini until the crash comes. True, the Joint Stock Act provides f the periodical publication of accounts, a regular audit, a various other matters which, but for the experience pa

years have in so many instances imparted, of the ease with which the cleverest of auditors as well as the dullest of the public may be mystified by financial statements prepared for the purpose of deceiving, might be regarded as ample guarantees. To combine perfect security to the public with the principle of limited liability to the shareholders in banking, may be impossible; but where the liability is the widest, then as a rule the public will—all things else being equal—be certain to give the preference. Although, therefore, the class of joint-stock money dealing houses which, under Mr. Headlam's bill, should it pass into a law, will be sure to spring up in vast numbers, may in some exceptional cases supply a want, and tend still further to develope the banking capabilities of the country, the chances are adverse to their attaining to any large measure of success, either in the amount of business or the extent of profit. That the experiment should be made seems desirable, especially if it can be done without any great risk, inasmuch as it will settle a question about which some of the highest authorities in monetary circles entertain the most directly opposite opinions. But that any joint-stock bank which, under the existing law, is enjoying a safe and profitable business, will desire to exchange their unlimited for a limited liability, looking at the price they may have to pay for the doubtful advantage, is more than improbable.

THE POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE MONEY MARKET.

The existing abundance of capital, and the expectation that the bank rate of discount may yet descend ½ per cent., renders the future prospects of the money market a subject of anxious deliberation with all those who are interested in national progress and prosperity. Scarcely two months have elapsed since the minimum rate of discount was at 10, and now the quotation has receded to 3 per cent. Meanwhile the effects of the late panic appear wholly to have subsided, and affairs remain in a quiescent state. The fury of the storm having abated, and monetary concerns having resumed their normal condition, it will be necessary to watch with vigilance the manifestation of symptoms that may arise to create any new disturbance.

Apart from political changes which may take place, and which must not be entirely excluded from consideration, the chief point to which attention should be directed is the revival of trade and the extension of relations with the continent, whence, unfortunately, much of the disaster originated, which was experienced during the recent commercial crisis. The sudden relaxation of the stringency, and the return to low rates of discount abroad, has been almost equal in proportion to the movement which has taken place here but of course

the absence of business, and the disinclination to enter into new engagements, sufficiently accounts for this remarkable and favourable alteration.

The north of Europe, which has suffered to a more alarming extent than any other locality, extended the baneful influence of its pernicious system of credit throughout Holland and Germany; but although the consequences were very serious, the measures adopted by the several governments wore productive of assistance and mitigated the intensity of the pressure. At Hamburgh the rate of discount, which progressively advanced from four to nine-and-a-half to ten per cent., exhibited a marked rebound as soon as the results of the panic passed, and in the course of a few weeks has receded to two and two-and-a-half per cent. In France, where the consequences of over-trading have not been so apparent as in England or Germany, the descent from high to low rates has been less rapid, but remaining as the terms for discounts do at four-and-a-half per cent., with the expectation of a further decline to four per cent.,* the money market must be assumed as in a very satisfactory situation. In Holland the rate of discount has steadily receded from an elevated point to four per cent., and at Frankfort the last quotation is even one per cent. below that quotation; showing that the several markets of the Continent are assimilating to the condition of our own, and that comparative abundance may at least be temporarily anticipated.

With full supplies in England, at the low rate of two-and-a-half to three per cent. (the Bank minimum as fixed by the last resolution of the Court of Directors being three per cent.), it might be supposed that immediate animation in business, or a revival in speculative adventure, would at once take place. For the present any such expectation need not be entertained.

Propitious as the period would seem to be for the introduction of companies to develope industrial and other enterprise, the public are not prepared either to afford them pecuniary support or to pledge their responsibility in the present uncertain state of the law. Trade, likewise, can only recover after the lapse of a few months, since, however satisfactory appearances may be, we have yet to ascertain the consequences of the late mercantile distress in India and Australia. March and April may consequently prove a time of trial in this respect; and notwithstanding there is little fear that any further disasters which may ensue will occasion serious results on this side, still the occurrence of failures would arrest the return of confidence, and probably augment the value of money.

Should, however, the influx of the precious metals during the next few weeks produce another slight decline in the bank rate, it would indeed be indicative of an unhealthy state of things. Desirable as it may be to see a moderate quotation for accommodation exist, it is, nevertheless, discouraging to find business at so low an ebb as to allow terms

* Since this was written the Bank of France have reduced the rate to four per cent.

such as now prevail to continue. One of two consequences will be sure to follow from this condition of things: either trade will unnaturally expand and fresh speculations take place in produce, or some new class of joint-stock adventure will be introduced, which, despite the experience of the past, will so infatuate the public that, losing all control, they will plunge headlong into the vortex, and be once more deeply involved. There is not yet the most remote appearance of a tendency to undue inflation, but it can scarcely be supposed that the plethora which seems imminent can last without leading to results similar to those now indicated.

Since the memorable railway mania no extensive manifestation in favour of joint-stock adventure has been presented. The discovery of gold in Australia and California led, it is true, to the organisation of petty mining undertakings, which swallowed up some three or four millions, and since then joint-stock banking enterprise has been the sole outlet for superabundant capital. On the continent Credit Mobilier schemes and other projects associated with land and credit banks have sought a share of patronage; but among our capitalists few, except those immediately identified with French or German establishments, engaged in them.

Fortunate it will be for the country at large if no new mania shall be encountered; a recovery in commerce and the legitimate extension of public works, through the employment of any available surplus, being preferable to the risks which must be run in such a period of excitement. It is, nevertheless, hardly possible to expect that we shall be altogether free from some movement of this description, unless political mutations or unfavourable seasons for crops shall interfere to prevent its occurrence.

REDUCTION IN THE BANK RATE OF DISCOUNT.

We announced in the last number of the *Bankers' Magazine*, that the directors of the Bank of England had reduced the rate of discount from 5 to 4 per cent. Occurring as the change did on the 28th of January, it was impossible to give the usual extracts from the contemporary press; but as further changes have since occurred, they are now presented at length. Following the alteration from 5 to 4 per cent. on the 28th of January, the rate has since been further reduced, first from 4 to 3½ per cent. on the 4th of February, and from 3½ to 3 per cent. on the 11th of February. As reference to the condition and prospects of the money market is made in another part of these pages, it is unnecessary to dilate at length upon the alteration.

The City writer of the *Times*, on the first alteration, remarked:—

> The Bank of England to-day have reduced their rate of discount from 5 per cent., at which it was fixed on the 14th inst., to 4 per cent.
>
> The movement would have been fully justified last week, and no doubt was entertained of its being adopted to-day. The stock of bullion now held is believed to be nearly a million in excess of the average amount at

former periods when the rate has been at this point, and there is a that for some time it will go on increasing, as a considerable tot due from Australia, the New York remittances promise to be ke the Continental exchanges are moderately steady. It is now n years and a-half since so low a charge as 4 per cent. has prevail was then current only for a few months. But during the last the rate has been under 4 per cent. more than half the time, an consequently a prospect that henceforth the tendency for a co period may be towards increased ease. For the last week or tw tions at the Bank for discount have almost entirely ceased, and, the alteration to-day led to a little demand, they are still likely t of a very moderate character, since the minimum rate in the op has for some days been not higher than 3 per cent.; while in Exchange the supply is abundant at 2 per cent.

The writer in the *Morning Herald* observed :—

The directors of the Bank of England reduced the rate of di day from 5 to 4 per cent., but the event was so generally anticipa created little excitement. The rapid increase of the bullion, and factory position of the reserve, induced the public to look for the last week, and it would no doubt have then taken place had not been influenced by a wise anxiety to check a revival of speculati at this reduction it is questioned whether much business will be to the discount department, the terms in the open market being below the minimum. But notwithstanding paper can be freely d at 3 per cent., the rate as fixed by the bank authorities serves to multitude in their opinion with respect to the probable future st money market. The rate has not receded to this point for a lo the date at which it last stood at 4 per cent. being September 6, 1 bullion in the bank was not then much in excess of £14,000,00 reserve of notes was certainly less satisfactory, being £7,525,900, time the war with Russia was in full force, and loans for Turkey and France had been negotiated, Now the prospects of plethora be confirmed, the directors are moving cautiously; and although the comparison of antecedent periods, they would be justified in to terms at least one-half per cent. lower, it is preferable that th act on the side of prudence, instead of stimulating speculation ready cheapening of accommodation. It is, indeed, feared that sures taken by some of the joint-stock banks—the London and W Bank in particular—may have the effect of promoting unnatur in produce and shares, the rapid declension in the rate of in deposits being calculated to force money for employment int channels. Past experience, it is, however, to be hoped, will s phrenzied tendency in this direction, since it would be immediatel by consequences as disastrous as those recently exhibited. through the stagnation which now pervades every branch of serious difficulty is found in remuneratively using the enormous possessed by these establishments; but, nevertheless, some fixed as has hitherto until recently been the case, should be recognised, the various directorates could be guided. The sudden transition to low rates, has, of course, produced dissatisfaction in some qua all along the policy of ever having advanced beyond 6 per cent. greatly questioned. The directors of the Bank of England will bably wait some short time before they announce a further unless the influx of gold should continue on an unlimited scale circumstances render a fresh alteration almost imperative. Th

the change upon the markets for public securities was unimportant, but temporarily increased firmness was apparent in prices.

On the 4th of February, the *Times* observed: —

The Bank of England to-day have reduced their rate of discount from 4 per cent., at which it was fixed on Thursday last, to 3½ per cent. This movement had scarcely been anticipated, and it therefore produced some effect upon the funds. It is presumed the *Gazette* returns to be published to-morrow will exhibit a further large increase in the unemployed notes, and that during the past week there has been an almost total absence of applications for discount. Under these circumstances it would be the duty of the directors to take the present step, and adapt themselves to the fair market rate. It is not their business to attempt to guide commerce or to keep money from becoming cheap, in order to prevent a new access of speculation. Experience and theory alike show all such efforts to be self-defeating. There is no danger at the present moment of any undue inflation. The evil rather is on the other side. The distrust from the recent panic is such, both with regard to mercantile transactions and the management of public companies, that the public are disposed to hold aloof from everything. Hence money is abundant, and, if that abundance should tempt people to make investments or undertake new operations while their judgments are calm, the effect will be simply such as is desirable. If, on the contrary, in order to check such operations and investments artificial means were employed, such as the Bank trying to prevent the rate of discount from finding its natural level, the plethora would be temporarily increased only at last to become uncontrollable a few months hence, when all that has recently passed will have been forgotten.

The *Morning Herald* on this alteration remarked:—

The Bank directors further reduced the rate of discount to-day from 4 to 3½ per cent. The measure, although not generally anticipated, was considered probable; and the movement has, consequently, not taken the public by surprise. The late influx of bullion, and the gradual increase of repayments, have no doubt greatly assisted to strengthen the position of the establishment; and it may therefore be presumed that the next *Gazette* return will present a most satisfactory appearance. The immediate effect of the alteration was to impart firmness to all descriptions of public securities, and the improvement exhibited was well supported to the general termination of business. The rate of discount last stood at 3½ per cent. on the 14th of June, 1855, when the stock of bullion was £18,060,716, and the reserve of notes £11,814,200, On the 2nd of June, 1853, the minimum had, after some fluctuation, descended to a similar point; and then the bullion represented £18,253,934, but the reserve of notes was not more than £8,336,970,

When, on the 11th February, the reduction took place to 3 per cent., the *Times* observed:—

The Bank of England to-day have reduced their rate of discount from 3½ per cent., at which it was fixed on Thursday last, to 3 per cent. It was fully expected yesterday that this movement would take place, but it produced upon its announcement a further slight improvement in the funds. Nearly five years have passed since the rate was at 3 per cent., a gradual advance, with one or two short exceptional intervals, having taken place from the 1st of June, 1853, when it last stood at that point. Previously, however, for nearly five years—that is to say, from the date of the complete subsidence of the effects of the panic of 1847—it had steadily kept

between 2 and 3 per cent. That period comprised 239 weeks, during which the minimum was 3 per cent. for 129 weeks, 2½ per cent. for 74 weeks, and 2 per cent. for 36 weeks; while the average stock of bullion was £16,836,000, the lowest amount having been £13,253,557, and the highest £22,232,138. At present the total held is, probably, about £16,300,000, and is, consequently, fully equal to the amount heretofore found consistent with a prolonged period of ease. The increase still promises to continue, since, although shipments to the Continent have again been resumed, there is no immediate sign that the sums required will be equal to those which will arrive. As a large proportion of the American and Australian payments to the Continent and elsewhere are made through this country, there must always, under ordinary circumstances, be a certain outflow. Conjectures, however, whether the present abundance will be maintained for a protracted time or be merely transitory have nothing to do with the proper course of the Bank of England. The dealers in money, like the dealers in any other commodity, have only to look to the current terms of the market, and the Bank, in following that rule, conforms alike to the interests of the proprietors and the public.

THE JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

THE half-yearly meetings of the several joint-stock banks in London being now completed, the subjoined tables have been made up, exhibiting their respective capitals and extent of transactions, as well as the periods at which they were severally opened. The first table shows the capitals and liabilities, in the latter of which, instead of the usual large increase, there has been a diminution during the past half-year of about three and a-half per cent. The second table specifies the amount of each guarantee fund, the rate of distribution just declared, and the ratio of capital and guarantee fund to liabilities, while the third furnishes a statement of the progress of each establishment during the last ten years :—

Banks.	When Founded.	Paid-up Capital.	Deposit and Current Accounts.
		£	£
London and Westminster, six branches	1834	1,000,000	13,889,021
London Joint-stock, one branch	1836	600,000	10,737,580
Union Bank of London, three branches	1839	600,000	9,645,913
London and County, sixty-five branches	1839	500,000	3,533,425
Commercial Bank of London, one branch	1839	300,000	821,626
City Bank	1855	300,000	1,388,933
Bank of London, one branch	1855	300,000	1,114,843
Unity Bank, three branches	1855	150,000	139,774
		3,750,000	41,271,115

Bank.	Guarantee Fund.	Rate of Dividend and Bonus per annum.	Rate of paid-up Capital and Guarantee Fund to Deposit and Current Account.
	£	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
London and Westminster	158,596	14	8·34
London Joint-Stock	187,014	22½	7·32
Union Bank of London	150,000	15	7·77
London and County	105,000	12	17·12
Commercial Bank of London	75,000	6	45·64
City Bank	28,000	5	23·61
Bank of London	4,587	5	27·32
Unity Bank	...	...	107·31
	708,197		

Year.	Bank.	Current and Deposit Accounts.	Guarantee Fund.	Ratio of Guarantee Fund to Current Liabilities.	Dividend and Bonus per Annum.
		£	£	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
1847	London and Westminster ...	2,733,753	100,647	3·68	6
1852		5,581,706	109,164	1·95	8
1857		13,889,021	158,596	1·14	16
1847	London Joint-Stock... ...	1,971,912	123,759	6·27	9¾
1852		3,591,506	146,613	4·08	9½
1857		10,737,580	187,014	1·74	22½
1847	Union Bank of London ...	2,510,064	22,954	0·91	6
1852		4,268,438	50,000	1·17	7
1857		9,645,913	150,000	1·55	20
1847	London and County... ...	1,225,120	17,386	1·42	6
1852		3,281,603	39,064	1·19	8
1857		3,533,425	105,000	2·97	11
1847	Commercial Bank of London	409,925	14,825	3·61	6
1852		964,177	28,968	3·00	8
1857		821,626	75,000	9·13	7

TRIAL OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

THE QUEEN, *v.* HUMPHREY BROWN AND OTHERS.

The trial of the directors and manager of the Royal British Bank, upon informations filed against them by the Attorney-General, commenced in the court of Queen's Bench, before Lord Campbell and a special jury, on Saturday, February 13th, and has continued *de die in diem* down to the moment of our going to press. It is, however, anticipated that it will be brought to a conclusion in a day or two.

There being several informations to be tried, the first taken was that which charged Humphrey Brown, Edward Esdaile, H. D. Macleod, Loran de Wolfe Cochran, Alderman R. H. Kennedy, W. D. Owen, James Staple-

ton, and Hugh Innes Cameron with a conspiracy to defraud. Thesiger, Mr. Atherton, Q.C., Mr. Serjeant Ballantine, Mr. Welsby, Joseph Brown appeared on the part of the Crown; Mr. Huddleston Mr. C. R. Kennedy, and Mr. Bell, for Brown; Mr. Edwin James, Q Mr. Aspland, for Esdaile; Mr. Lawrance, for Macleod; Cochran, w not pleaded, did not appear; Mr. Serjeant Shee, Mr. D. D. Keane, Jacobs appeared for Alderman Kennedy: Mr. Slade, Q.C., and Mr. K for Owen; Sir F. Kelly, Mr. Bovill, Q.C., and Mr. Coleridge for Sta and Mr. Digby Seymour and Mr. Bennett, for Cameron.

That a full account of the trial should be given, is, from the length of the proceedings, impossible. Moreover, the reports of w already taken place in the Court of Bankruptcy, to say nothing widely-spread knowledge of the cause of the bank's failure, arisin the ruin of so many people, render details less necessary. We confi selves, therefore, to an outline of the character of the trial. This is in the first instance, by the principal count in the indictment, which the material offence, viz.:—"That the defendants fraudulently co to represent that the affairs of the British Bank were in a prospero dition during the whole of the year 1855, and half of the year 18 for that purpose, in order to carry out the conspiracy, to publish ment of the affairs of the bank and to declare a dividend, when in dividend had been earned." Several overt acts were then set out, an were several other counts, all charging conspiracy, but varying in and, finally, a general count, charging the defendants with defraud cheating James Arundel and others.

Sir F. Thesiger, who led the prosecution on the part of the Crow ther illustrated the plan on which it proceeded in his opening sta wherein he proposed to show—first, the actual state and conditi which the bank had been brought by the mismanagemnnt and mis of the defendants; secondly, whether, at the time of these acts a representations, they were aware of the real state and position of th and thirdly, whether with that knowledge they made false and fra misrepresentations and performed fraudulent acts for the purpose cealing the true state of things, and in that manner brought the within the range of a charge of conspiracy. In developing these h accusation, Sir F. Thesiger spoke for nearly five hours. At the c his speech he said, with reference to the conduct of the defend "Wide-spread ruin has been scattered over the whole of the c houses have been brought to destruction, families have been plung affluence into poverty, the hard earnings of industry, collected l labour, have been entirely lost, and everyone who has had connecti this bank has had to rue the day in which he trusted to the assumed and truthfulness of its directors." He concluded by calling on the keep the leading marks of the case steadily in view; and then to as selves, first, what was the condition of the bank? Secondly, co defendants have been ignorant of it? And thirdly, had not the defe by false, fraudulent, and deceitful acts and contrivances, induced th and the shareholders to believe that the institution was solvent w fact it was not so?

The proceedings have occupied several days; the evidence being to the state of the Welsh works, and the position of the directo the manager, Cameron. The case for the prosecution is closed, principal counsel have been heard for the defendants.

Sir,—The loose assertions sometimes uttered by Mr. Miechi may be to pass unnoticed; but when they re-appear in the form of an ed verbatim report of his speech, I feel bound to reply.
ictantly publish the following documents, to rebut the insinuations ed in the last report of the Unity Bank, and in the speech of Mr.

It was probably surmised by the directors that a vague charge of cessful management" against a retired official would elicit sympathy e shareholders, and divert an inquiry into their own conduct.
proceedings of the board furnish another proof, if any such were that professions of sincerity and honour made by public men cannot closely scrutinised.
delicate position as manager, unsecured by a guarantee, may be understood from the subjoined extract of a letter received by me, ned by a member of the board:—
making your calculations of these expenses I must, as in duty bound lf and brother directors, who are declared by the deed to be pro- of the association, claim that a proper sum be entered in the cal- n for the promoters' bonus. I have before me, in the copy of the en handed to me, evidence that a provision was made for this therein, would have been allowed to have remained in the deed by the Board le if the amount to be paid had been specified. I understood that ras would be £1,000 *each at least*, and I am prepared to maintain, standing what has occurred, that should the bank be successful, as I believe it will be under proper management, that faith should be kept e promoters."
d not add that this modest suggestion was totally disregarded.
this time every proposal introduced by me to the board was studiously l by this member, and I was subjected to repeated insults, so gross on more than one occasion he was unanimously censured by the

At length I considered it necessary for my own protection to con- at a committee of investigation should be appointed, and that the n should be nominated by my opponent. The following was the —

n adjourned special meeting of the committee of investigation, held Cannon-street, City, on Friday, 17th July, 1857, at eleven o'clock.

pear nearly all to be positively secured, and the others are such as appe be justified by the means and character of the parties.

"Having come to the above resolutions, we consider they will form report in answer to the reference to this committee; and we have con the conclusion that the charge of mismanagement has not been proved, we see every reason to be satisfied with the way in which the business of bank is now conducted.

"J. J. MECHI, Governo
"B. BOWER.
"T. C. HAYWARD.
"E. LLOYD."

The board then consisted of seven members only, one of whom has resigned.

The object for which this Investigation Committee was required, ha failed, menaces were then resorted to; and the directors were informed unless they procured my resignation, application would be made fo order to "wind up the bank." To me the position of manager was not portant; and the ordinary anxieties of a banking business were suffic without adding those arising from vindictive altercation. I, there tendered my resignation, in August last; and from that time this dis rested director, having thus been the means of giving a shock to the pro of the bank, instead of endeavouring by more zealous attention to his d to repair the damage he had done, absented himself for four months the board.

It must be obvious that I did not retire upon a question of "unsucce management," but to appease the malice of an individual; and that, s as the directors' report refers to me, the allegation is manifestly untrue.

My resignation was not advertised by me, because the directors deem would be injurious to the bank to do so; and, from a similar motive, proof of my confidence in its stability, I became a proprietor of a number of shares.

I must distinctly repudiate all responsibility of management since 13th August; knowing, like other men of business, that ignorance an judicious management will frequently convert good debts into bad The credit of even solvent merchants and traders may be irretrievably by the sudden withdrawal of the usual banking accommodation; but w customers are subject to the caprice of a manager who talks of "*sha them up*" as a facetious operation, a large increase in the amount of past bills cannot be a matter of surprise. In two instances, recently municated to me, a loss of between £2,000 and £3,000 was needlessly curred.

The directors' report and Mr. Mechi's speech insinuate that debts t amount of £34,832 were made by me.

Now, on the 13th August, the past-due bills at the chief office amou to £18,399; and more than half of this might have been recovered by exercise of ordinary diligence. Since my retirement, every dividend payment in full have been received against this amount; and by a re legal decision, upwards of £3,000 will be recovered from the estate of C A. King.

Mr. Mechi asserts that "the branches are nearly all paying their penses." It is desirable to ask him which branches he alludes to, as he know that such a statement is contrary to the fact, and that these bran have been, from the first, a drag upon the bank.

The balance-sheet states that we have £139,774 in hand belongin *customers*. This is not true.

"The improved management" relied upon by the directors in thei

port, has already resulted in losing some of the best accounts; reducing the number from 1,400 to 1,170, with a corresponding diminution of customers' balances from £176,013, in May last, to £139,774, as stated in the balance-sheet; giving "unmistakeable evidence" of the withdrawal of public confidence: and if we add to these "unmistakeable" advantages the wretched parade of economy—reducing the salaries of a few junior clerks 25 per cent., and that of a favoured cashier 3½ per cent. only; together with the exclusion of the present manager from the board room; substituting a junior clerk—through whom his future instructions will be received—the exhibition of "improved management" is complete.

We may judge of the future from the past. These are the gentlemen (with the exception of Mr. Bower) who, without consulting me, and before the bank was three months old, engaged premises for five branches in London; and one of whom excited the astonishment and ridicule of the commercial world by proposing to open a branch in every street in the metropolis.

The report of the investigation committee is plain and distinct. It exonerates me entirely from the absurd and wicked charges of unsuccessful management. It was a deliberate opinion, endorsed by four out of six of their present board.

I therefore submit to you that it was neither honourable nor candid in the face of that report, and upwards of five months after I had ceased to have any control, to attempt, by shielding themselves under my name, to lead the attention of the shareholders away from their own mismanagement.

With these facts before them, it remains with the shareholders to decide whether further risk shall be incurred. The present diminished capital, the fixed amount of expenditure, the future liabilities, and the management of the present board, are the data from which a practical solution can be drawn. As a shareholder myself, and deeply interested in its result, I would recommend that a committee be appointed forthwith, to determine whether, under such circumstances, it will not be wise to tempt fortune no more.

I beg to remain, dear sir, yours truly,

GEO. CHAMBERS.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND,

THE following is a copy of a letter from the Governor and Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England to the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, respecting the enlargement of their issues beyond the limit fixed by the Bank Act of 1844 (in continuation of correspondence presented to Parliament on the 3rd of December, 1857):—

"Bank of England, Feb. 4, 1858.

"My Lord and Sir,—In compliance with a wish expressed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that we should furnish you with an 'official account' of the course adopted by the Bank of England in respect of the permission granted by the 21st of Victoria, cap. 1, to issue notes in excess of the statutory limits previously laid down, we have the honour now to address you and to state that the Bank of England have used the powers so vested in them to the extent of two millions, as shown in their weekly accounts. The Bank commenced to take notes from the issue department on the 13th of November last, and on Thursday, the 24th of December, they reduced the rate of discount to 8 per cent., or below 10 per cent., whereby the suspension of the act of the 7th and 8th years of Her Majesty ceased and determined; and the whole £2,000,000 were transferred to the issue department accordingly. That 'public notice,' as directed by the 2nd clause of the

act 21st of Victoria, cap. 1, was duly published in the *Gazette* following Friday.

"The purposes to which the excess of issue should be applicabl been prescribed in your letter of the 12th of November to be, t the bank 'in that emergency to meet the demands for discou advances upon approved securities,' it may be necessary to st portion of the said £2,000,000 were actually made use of and emp directed in discounts and advances to the public.

"The greatest amount issued to the public on any one day was £ *minimum* £15,000, or a daily average of £488,830 for 18 days, th during which any portion of the £2,000,000 were out of the han bank. The remainder was throughout unemployed, and was ret the banking department till the whole £2,000,000 of notes were to the issue department on the 24th of December, and the s withdrawn therefrom. The total reserve on the previous £7,971,000.

"It may be observed that, as respects the position of the Bank land accounts, an earlier period might have been selected for the the notes, as, in case of their becoming again necessary, recour be had to the issue department as before; but the court deemed i able that this partial measure should be deferred till they co prudence reduce the rate of discount below 10 per cent., by w powers granted by the act would at the same time be brought to nation.

"We append a daily statement of that portion of the notes acti ployed with the public during the eighteen days above alluded to.

"We have the honour to be, my Lord and Si

"Your most obedient servants,

"SHEFFIELD NEAVE, Governor,
"BONAMY DOBREE, Deputy-Gove

"To the Right Hon. the First Lord of Her Majesty's Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer."

An account showing the extent to which the Bank of England itself of its power, under the authority of Government, to issue the public beyond the limit allowed by the Act of 1844:—

			Notes issued t on securities Statutory limit of
1857.	November	13	£186
	,,	14—15...	622
	,,	16	860
	,,	17	836
	,,	18	852
	,,	19	896
	,,	20	928
	,,	21—22...	617
	,,	23	397
	,,	24	317
	,,	25	81
	,,	26	243
	,,	27	342
	,,	28—29...	184
	,,	30	15
	Average of 18 days	... ...	488

Bank of England, Feb. 3.

THE ESTATE OF MR. H. S. NEVILLE.

A MEETING of the creditors of H. S. Neville, engaged in business as a dry-salter, and who recently failed, was held on the 29th December, when it was agreed to accept a composition of 4*s.* in the pound, payable by instalments at one and three months' date. The liabilities are stated at £10,919, of which £9,700 are on contracts for saltpetre for himself and other parties as their agent, and the assets represent £2,245, exclusive of any amount that may be obtained on the adjustment of these engagements. Some discussion took place with reference to the transactions of the debtor, and a resolution was passed reprobating his conduct in having entered into such contracts for other individuals. The accounts were prepared by Messrs. Quilter, Ball and Co.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. W. J. POWELL AND SON.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. W. J. Powell and Son, engaged in the Manchester trade, was held on the 31st December, when the following statement was presented by Messrs. Parrinton, Ladbury and Co.:—

Dr.			
To creditors, as per list	£43,932 10 2		
Less amount secured	1,365 9 9		
		£42,567	0 5
Liability on bills discounted which will be claimed on the estate	2,186 4 0		
Less security held by creditors	1,056 3 0		
		1,130	1 0
Liabilities on bills discounted considered good	25,052 19 9		
Liability on acceptance due March 4, secured by consignment to the full amount	1,000 0 0		
		£43,697	1 5
Cr.			
By stock in trade at cost		£18,563	16 10
Book debts :—			
Good		20,542	1 6
Doubtful	£3,181 19 8	918	18 7
Bad	962 16 2		
Cash and bills in hand		806	2 10
Cash and bills in the hands of Messrs. Barclay and Co., and Messrs. Weston and Laurie, which they hold against bills discounted	1,629 4 9		
Less claims thereon	1,055 3 0		
		573	1 9
Carried forward ...		£41,404	1 6

Brought forward ...				£41,404 1
By lease of business premises and fixtures Nos. 10 and 11, Friday-street, held for a term of 21 years, from Midsummer 1852, at a rental of £300 per annum...	2,450	0	0	
Held by Messrs. Stagg and Co., as security for their debt of	1,365	9	9	
				1,084 10
By lease of business premises and fixtures, No. 9, Friday-street, held for a term of 17 years, from Michaelmas, 1857, at the rental of £500 per annum				150 0
				£42,638 11
Less rent, taxes, gas and salaries				609 7
				£42,029 4
By amount of the private estate of Mr. W. J. Powell	£2,065	0	0	

The position of this estate, it appeared, was rather anomalous, and it w be perceived by the figures that a dividend of nearly 20*s.* in the pound presented. The trading had been of a satisfactory character, the retu being from £160,000 to £170,000 per annum. The capital when the f commenced business in 1852 was £23,000, brought from another bu establishment, and the cause of suspension is entirely attributed to drawings of the senior partner, which have been at the rate of £3,00 £4,000 per annum. His private property shows a surplus of £2,065, cluding a considerable quantity of wine, but the creditors expressed c siderable dissatisfaction at the want of prudence so painfully exhibit The situation of the son, who has not drawn more than £150 per annu was the subject of deep commisseration, and it was proposed that he sh in future carry on the business. The offer made to the creditors was 1 in the pound, but some discussion arose with respect to the period of p ment. It was ultimately agreed to arrange the instalments at three, and nine months, from the 15th January; and a committee was appoin to determine the security.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. CARR, JOSLING AND CO.

THERE was a numerous meeting on the 7th January of the creditors Messrs. Carr, Josling and Co,, lately engaged in the trade of the north Europe, who failed on the 23rd November, when the following statem was presented by Mr. J. E. Coleman, the accountant:—

Dr.

To creditors on open accounts				£50,686 0
Bills payable	£164,384	2	2	
Of which it is expected there will be provided for by the parties for whose account the bills were accepted	110,571	14	4	
Leaving to rank on this estate				53,812 7
Carried forward ...				...£104,498 8

	Brought forward		£104,498 8 0
To Creditors fully secured—			
Security held	£15,040 7 0		
Claims	12,500 0 0		
Surplus to contra	£2,540 7 0		
		£104,498	8 0
Liabilities on acceptances for account of other parties to whom Carr, Josling and Co. had granted credits, but which parties have since suspended payment, or from other causes are unable to meet their engagements		72,442	5 2
Liabilities on bills receivable, discounted	£159,390 19 3		
Of which it is expected there will be duly honoured at maturity, or taken up by the drawers	121,334 19 4		
Leaving to rank on this estate		38,055	19 11
Liabilities		£214,996	13 1

Cr.

By cash at bankers	£2,091 16 9		
Less amount which will be retained against bills discounted	151 17 1		
		£1,939	19 8
Bills receivable on hand, good		2,122	16 0
Bills, doubtful	£4,083 17 9		
Estimated at 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound		1,531	9 0
Shares and sundry assets		7,210	11 11
Debtors, good		69,551	8 11
Debtors, doubtful	£55,418 7 2		
Estimated at		14,440	0 0
Consignments of goods		10,831	9 10
Surplus from creditors holding security, per contra		2,540	7 0
		£110,168	2 4
Less creditors to be paid in full		250	18 7
		£109,917	3 9
By surplus from separate estate of G. B. Carr		18,833	7 4
(In respect of the bills amounting to £38,055 19*s.* 11*d.*, which will at present rank on this estate, it is expected that reclamation will be made from the acceptors to some extent, in which case such reclamations will be available for division amongst the general creditors.)			
Assets		£128,750	11 1

General Balance Statement, from 1st July, 1855, to 23rd November,

Dr.

To liabilities, as above	£214,996
Capital (including separate estates)	76,878
Profits	44,208
	£336,083

Cr.

By assets, as above	£128,750
Cash retained by bankers	151
Loss by bad and doubtful debts and bills, amounting to	69,736
Other losses	21,036
Liabilities on bills discounted, per contra	38,056
Ditto on acceptances	72,442
Personal expenses of partners	5,911
	£336,083

The above figures show a dividend of about 12*s.* in the pound, t Coleman estimated that an amount of 10*s.* might at least be reali was expected that the assets would be increased through the reco of bills in connection with estates in Sweden, the Government o country are making great exertions to assist their commercial in No exaggerated value had been placed upon the debts, but the am which they had been taken would, it was believed, be secured. T plus of the private estate, £18,900, and the property in shares, w to increase the general assets available by the creditors. It was in that, in addition to the general statement, a balance statement h prepared in order to show the capital and progress of the firm, and hat an opinion expressed that it was the practice of accountants meetings to avoid entering into sufficient details. Although Mr. C commenced business in the year 1829 with a capital of £2,050, exc personal bequests since received of £12,500, has, during the latte his career, been making £4,000 a year, his private expenditure exceeded £900 a year. His operations in the north of Europe, w has had extensive connections, have occasioned his failure. As a stance illustrating his position and credit, it was mentioned tha total of the open accounts included in the statement, £38,000 i sented by money deposited in his hands at interest. Mr. Lawrenc firm of Lawrence, Plews, and Boyer, the professional adviser of stated the course proposed to be adopted. In the first instance, Carr and Josling thought of offering a composition, but subseq was found that this could not be satisfactorily accomplished, and t it was proposed to liquidate under inspection. The proceedings connection with the private arrangement clauses of the Bankru had been only to protect the interests of the general creditors aga special creditor who might have been disposed to seek an undue ad and in the succeeding steps for winding up the estate, care would to obtain the affidavits of claim in proper form. The inspectors a in accordance with the resolutions adopted, are Mr. Stephen C Méiville, and Mr. Bowness.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. C. A. JONAS AND CO.

THE meeting of the creditors of Messrs. C. A. Jonas and Co., engaged in the Baltic trade, who failed on the 4th December, was held on the 7th January, when the following statement was submitted by Mr. Ball, of the firm of Messrs. Quilter, Ball and Co., the accountants:—

Dr.

To sundry creditors unsecured			£19,705 5 10
Creditors partially secured—			
Amount of claims...	£9,753 14 4		
Less estimated value of security ...	6,596 0 2		
			3,157 14 2
Creditors fully secured—			
Estimated value of security ...	4,457 0 2		
Less amount of claims	3,922 17 5		
Surplus	534 2 9		
Liabilities on bills receivable—			
Considered good	17,136 16 2		
Considered bad	4,161 0 0		
Less estimated value of security ...	3,470 0 4		
			690 19 8
Liabilities on acceptances—			
Provided for...	16,863 9 7		
Secured	12,410 15 9		
Outstanding	22,852 12 9		
	£52,126 18 1		
Of which it is estimated will prove on this estate ...			8,591 5 0
			£32,145 4 8

Cr.

By cash on hand			£277 10 9
Cash detained at bankers	£1,010 0 4		
Bills receivable on hand—			
Considered good	2,922 13 10		
Considered doubtful, £1,500.			
Estimated at 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound	575 0 0		
			3,497 13 10
Sundry debtors—			
Considered good			11,420 4 4
Considered bad	596 10 2		
Office furniture, estimated value			100 0 0
Surplus securities, per contra			534 2 9
			15,829 11 8
Less rent, salaries, &c., payable in full			100 0 0
			15,729 11 8
By deficiency			16,415 13 0
			£32,145 4 8

According to the explanations afforded, the estate showed a divi about 10*s.* in the pound, and of the deficiency of £16,415 presented statement, special losses to the extent of £14,273 had occurred f failure of other houses during the recent crisis. On the 1st Januar the apparent deficiency was £2,307, but the father of one of the p advanced £6,000 to carry out operations, for which he is now an un creditor. The profits of the year exceeded the ordinary losses, drawings, &c., and the trading, it was stated, had been perfectly leg Another feature was that the books had been well kept. The whol explanations being regarded as satisfactory, the resolutions prepared Hollams, the solicitor, for a winding-up under inspection, were agr

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. WIENHOLT, WEHNER AND

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Wienholt, Wehner and Co. East Indian and Australian trade, who failed on the 11th Decem held on the 7th January, when the following statement, prepared Clarke, the accountant, was presented :—

Dr.

To creditors unsecured, as per statement, viz.—				
Trade		£29,758 7 9		
Permanent family loans		17,597 7 6		
				£47,35
To creditors partially secured—				
Amount of claims		52,706 4 7		
Less estimated value of securities ...		43,975 0 0		
				8,73
To creditors fully secured—				
Estimated value of securities ...		46,855 0 8		
Amount of claims		41,757 12 7		
Surplus per contra		£5,097 8 1		
To liabilities on acceptance		£146,907 1 5		
Viz. :—				
Protected by other parties		46,304 11 7		
Secured by the documents of produce invoiced at ...	£82,786 10 0			
Amount of bills ...	75,675 10 0	75,675 10 0		
Surplus per contra ...	£7,111 0 0			
Estimated to be claimed on the estate.		24,926 19 10		24,92
		£146,907 1 5		
To liabilities on bills receivable, as per statement		£152,196 0 7		
Of which it is estimated will be proved on the estate		...	...	12,50
To creditors to be paid in full ...		550 0 0		
				£93,51

Capital on January 1st, 1856		£30,758	7 7
Balance of profit and loss from January 1st, 1856, to December 11th, 1857		35,000	0 0
		£65,758	7 7
And permanent family loans		£17,597	7 6
Cr.			
By cash and surplus securities in the hands of bankers ...		£4,624	2 10
By debtors—			
Good	£21,270 18 11		
Doubtful £13,874 1 1			
Estimated to realise	7,000 0 0		
Bad 506 15 4			
	28,270 18 11		
Less creditors to be paid in full, per contra	550 0 0		
		27,720	18 11
By surplus securities in the hands of creditors		5,097	8 1
Surplus on produce		7,111	0 0
Merchandise and other securities, as per statement ..		13,321	15 9
Office furniture		150	4 0
		£58,025	9 6
By outstanding debts and assets in India	£66,871 3 8		
Which, at only 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, will yield		25,071	13 6
		£83,097	3 0

The estate, it will be noticed, showed about 17*s.* 9*d.* in the pound; but as the assets are principally Indian, the actual dividend could not be accurately estimated. They included a small indigo factory, and consignments of goods, which it was hoped might be realised without any great sacrifice. With the view of conducting a liquidation which should be satisfactory to the creditors, it was proposed to adopt the process of inspectorship, and three gentlemen were appointed to act with the debtors. In answer to questions, it was stated that the failure had been solely occasioned through the crisis, and that the item of permanent family loans had not been diminished. After the ordinary resolutions introduced to the notice of the meeting by Mr. Peachey, of the firm of Messrs. Oliverson, Peachey and Co., were passed, one expressing sympathy at the difficulties of Messrs. Wienholt, Wehner and Co., was brought forward and carried. It was then announced that although the permanent family loans were unsecured, further assistance would have been rendered had the partners entertained an impression that they could have surmounted their embarrassments. Several creditors testified to the honourable conduct of Messrs. Wienholt, Wehner and Co., in their various business engagements.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. LUPTON, HOOTON AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Lupton, Hooton and Co., in the Manchester trade, who failed on the 1st, was held on the 11th January, when it was agreed to accept a composition of 17*s.* in the pound, payable by instalments at three, six, and nine months' date. It will be noticed from the following statement, prepared by Messrs. Parrinton and Ladbury, that the estate shows a small surplus. Some surprise was therefore created when was announced that an offer of 16*s.* was about to be made. After a short discussion, it was resolved to take the amended proposal, a committee having been appointed to superintend the arrangement. Should the estate when investigated not be able to pay the composition named, it is then to be wound up under inspection. The cause of suspension was the withdrawal of capital which had been left in the firm by a previous partner:—

Dr.

To creditors, as per list	...£29,786 14 9		
Less security held by creditors... ...	2,705 8 10		
		£27,081	5 11
Liability on bills receivable discounted, and which will be proved on this estate		515	6 0
Ditto, ditto, considered good ...	... £7,597 16 0		
Liability on acceptance, for which the firm has received a collateral security, but the acceptance will be proved on this estate		1,400	0 0
Surplus (which would be increased by any value that may arise from the collateral security above-mentioned)		913	15 0
		£29,910	7 7

Cr.

By stock in trade, at cost		£12,783	13 3
Book debts—			
Good		10,399	17 10
Doubtful	£950 5 3	633	10 2
Bad	1,007 11 7		
Estimated produce		136	1 0
Estimated surplus to arise from acceptances charged per contra		255	6 0
Cash in hand and at bankers	359 16 1		
Less — will be retained by bankers, against loss	83 18 6		
		275	17 7
Bills in hand	5,865 12 5		
Estimated to produce		5,718	19 11
Lease of premises and fixtures, Nos. 53 and 54, Bread-street, No. 6, Star-court, and Nos. 79 and 79½, Watling-street, held for the term of 21 years from Christmas, 1857, at the annual rent of £400, taken in balance-sheet, June, 1857	1,700 0 0		
Expended thereon since that time ...	1,005 8 10		
	£2,705 8 10	£30,203	5 9

Held by cash creditors as security for their debts, and deducted, per contra		£30,203	5 9
Less rent, taxes, gas, and salaries		292	18 2
		£29,910	7 7

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. SABEL AND CO.

A meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Sabel and Co. was held on the 11th January, when the following statement was submitted by Mr. Saffery, of the firm of Palmer and Saffery, accountants.

CLAIMS.

To sundry creditors unsecured, viz:—			
On acceptances	£15,396 14 0		
On open accounts	8,432 6 3		
		£23,829	0 3
To creditor partially secured	917 12 6		
Less securities held...	850 10 6		
		67	2 0
To creditors for advances on 300 shares in the London General Paper Company, as per contra...	700 0 0		
Less value of life policy also held ...	50 0 0		
		650	0 0
To liabilities on acceptances on account of other parties	5,856 1 4		
Of which it is expected claims will arise on		2,466	5 3
To liabilities on bills receivable	12,323 9 4		
Of which it is expected claims will arise on	2,424 12 2		
Less cash at bankers	200 15 0		
		2,223	17 2
		£29,236	4 8
To balance deficiency		£14,556	12 5
Outstanding liability of the late firm of Sabel and Sabel	£12,735 17 6		

ASSETS.

By cash in hand		£323	7 9
Bills receivable on hand considered good		1,423	10 3
Ditto doubtful	£563 3 3		
Estimated to realise 5*s.* per pound		140	15 10
Carried forward ...		£1,887	13 10

	Brought forward ...			£1,887 13
By sundry debtors, good				7,051 15
Consignments, balances outstanding ...				315 17
Property—				
Stock in trade, cost	£5,415	9	9	
Office furniture, estimated to realise	200	0	0	
Household furniture, estimated to realise	400	0	0	
				6,015 9
				£15,270 17
Deduct claims to be paid in full				591 5
				£14,679 12
By balance "deficiency"				14,556 12
				£29,236 4

Statement accounting for Deficiency.

Dr.				
To deficiency as above				£14,556 12
Capital July 1st, 1856				730 17
Subsequent profits				5,763 4
				£21,050 14
Cr.				
By cost of shares—				
In London General Paper Company ... (Held by creditor per contra.)	£1,500	0	0	
In Caillaud's Patent Tanning Company	750	0	0	
				£2,250 0
Trade charges, from June, 1856, to Dec. 1857, viz.—				
Interest, discount, commission, &c. ...	2,357	13	5	
Salaries, rent, travelling expense, &c.	4,703	9	2	
				7,061 2
E. Sabel, drawing account				1,936 7
Losses prior to stoppage, viz.—				
Doubtful and bad debts	3,697	0	5	
Bills receivable (doubtful)	422	7	5	
Consignments	113	0	0	
				4,232 7
Losses on realisation, viz.—				
Household furniture	380	0	0	
Office furniture	300	0	0	
				680 0
By losses in respect of bills, which should be provided for by other parties, as per contra, viz.—				
On our acceptances	2,466	5	3	
On bills receivable	2,424	12	2	
				4,890 17
				£21,050 14

Mr. Lawrence appeared for the principal creditors, and after some discussion the meeting was adjourned to allow Messrs. Sabel and Co. time to consider the possibility of making a definite offer of composition of 9*s.* in the pound to the creditors.

THE ESTATE OF MR. EDWARD SMITH.

A MEETING of the creditors of Mr. Edward Smith, woolstapler, who failed on the 15th December, took place on the 13th January, at which the following statement was presented:—The liabilities on bills appear very large, and an amount of £109,397 is expected to be proved against the estate. It was proposed to pay 3*s.* in the pound, secured at three months; but subsequently the creditors, without accepting or rejecting the offer, appointed a committee to carry out a further investigation, and to report to an adjourned meeting.

Dr.

To creditors unsecured		£68,967	12 1
Creditors holding security	£133,874 17 10		
Less—			
Value of security held by them ...	109,274 11 11		
		24,600	5 11
Creditors fully secured	1,630 1 4		
Value of security held by W. C. Haigh	9,219 12 8		
Surplus available as an asset contra	7,589 11 4		
Liabilities on endorsements of bills receivable	201,724 10 8		
Of which there are expected to be proved upon this estate	109,397 6 9		
		109,397	6 9
		£202,965	4 9

Cr.

By stock on hand, estimated at		£25,163	17 4
Book debts		285	16 6
Cash	£146 1 11		
(Retained by bankers to meet liabilities)			
Cash with country agents		169	6 5
Surplus stock in hands of creditors		7,589	11 4
		£33,208	10 7
Less—			
Rent, taxes and small debts proposed to be paid in full		551	0 10
		£32,657	9 9
Value of private estate, estimated at		756	11 9
		£33,414	1 6

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. SEWELLS AND NECK

A NUMEROUS meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Sewells and Nec engaged in the trade with Norway, who failed on the 5th Decem held on the 14th January, at the London Tavern, when the followi ment, showing a surplus of £57,581, was presented by Mr. W. T of Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co.'s, the accountants:—

Dr.

To creditors unsecured—				
On open accounts		£40,632 1 2		
On bills payable		60,790 5 0		
On family deposits		22,656 7 4		
				£124,07
Creditors holding security—				
Securities held		42,809 19 0		
Claims		41,389 8 3		
Surplus subject to interest...		£1,420 10 9		
Liabilities on bills payable accepted on account of the drawers who are returned as creditors for certain amounts, subject to their retiring our acceptances, as per statement page	£97,618 5 4			
Of which, it is estimated, will be claimed against this estate		10,825 16 3		
Accepted on account of drawers who are debtors after retiring our acceptances, as per statement page	104,802 4 10			
Of which it is estimated will not be retired by the drawers		9,742 0 0		
	202,420 10 2			20,5
To liabilities on bills receivable—				
Amount run off and paid	108,322 0 1			
Amount run off, not met by acceptors, but expected to be retired by drawers or endorsers... ...	29,766 0 1			
Expected to become claims	4,118 5 10	4,118 5 10		
Carried forward ...	£142,206 6 0	£4,118 5 10		£144,6

Brought forward	£142,206 6 0	£4,118 5 10	£144,646 9 9	
To amount still running, expected to be met by acceptors, drawers, or endorsers ...	137,972 0 1			
Expected to become claims	1,911 0 10	1,911 0 10		
	£282,089 6 11		6,029 6 8	
			£150,675 16 5	
Balance, being surplus of joint estate...			37,581 3 10	
			£188,257 0 3	

Cr.

By balances at bankers, subject to repayment of loan and to liabilities on bills under discount	£5,755 17 10		
Bills receivable on hand		£34,820 17 10	
By debtors—			
Considered good		86,619 9 0	
Considered doubtful	1,634 7 7		
Considered bad	11,394 16 7		
	13,029 4 2		
By property, estimated value		18,990 0 0	
Borregaard estate, estimated value, after deducting mortgages and other claims		30,000 0 0	
Bills of exchange and cash deposited as collateral security for payment of bills discounted and negotiated .		14,826 13 5	
		£188,257 0 3	
By balance, being surplus of joint estate brought down	£37,581 3 10		
Partner's private estates, estimated to realise	20,000 0 0		
		£57,581 3 10	

Statement showing the Position of the Firm on 31st December, 1856, and accounting for present Surplus.

Dr.

To capital, December 31st, 1856	£72,834 10 0	£72,834 10 0	
Mr. Joseph Sewell's deposit account £5,700 0 0			
Family deposits ... 22,656 7 4			
	28,356 7 4		
	101,190 17 4		
Carried forward ...		£72,834 10 0	

	Brought forward		£72,834 10 0
To profits from Dec. 31st, 1856, to Dec. 5th, 1857, viz.—			
Interest account balance	£7,656 6 10		
Commission	13,217 14 6		
Insurance	825 10 0		
Brokerage, postages, &c.	462 14 3		
	22,162 5 7		
Less expenses	2,071 14 2		
		20,090 11 5	
		£92,925 1 5	
Cr.			
By partners' accounts, from December 31st, 1856, to December 5th, 1857—			
Drawings of Mr. C. Sewell and Mr. Neck	£2,916 4 6		
Thomas Sewell, balance at his debit in general ledger	2,210 15 8		
	5,127 0 2		
Deduct — Joseph Sewell, amount to his credit since December 31st, 1856	1,903 7 2		
		£3,223 13 0	
By losses, viz.,			
Sundries—balance of profit and loss account	4,348 0 10		
On estimated realisation of debtors	£13,029 4 2		
Property	795 1 8		
Borregaard estate	600 4 4		
Securities held by creditors	1,420 10 9		
Holmsund Stock	2,000 0 0		
Shipping in Norway	3,329 19 11		
	21,175 0 10		
		25,523 1 8	
By liabilities—			
On bills payable	20,567 16 3		
On bills receivable	6,029 6 8		
		26,597 2 11	
Surplus as per statement of affairs		37,581 3 10	
		£92,925 1 5	

The announcement that the estate showed 20*s.* in the pound, leaving a large surplus, was received with much satisfaction, particularly when it was ascertained that of this sum £20,000 is derived from the separate properties of the partners. The Borregaard Estate, valued at £30,000 after deducting mortgagees and other claims, was originally purchased for £43,000; and the remaining assets can be steadily realised. It was explained by Mr. Hollams, the professional representative of the firm, that the suspension was entirely voluntary, Messrs. Sewells and Neck, notwithstanding the offer of assistance from the Bank of England and private

friends, having declined to proceed owing to the uncertainty which prevailed a few weeks since with regard to the trade of the north of Europe. They were not then aware that Norway could have so well withstood the effects of the crisis as has now proved to be the case, and they consequently hesitated to jeopardise the funds which would have been supplied for their use. The local government having stepped forward to the assistance of the mercantile community, they have been enabled to contend with their difficulties, and in credit they now present a strong contrast to other neighbouring countries. The assets being principally in Norway, the only favour Messrs. Sewells and Neck ask at the hands of their creditors is an extension of time, and it is proposed to pay 20*s.* in the pound with 5 per cent. interest, by instalments, at six, twelve, eighteen, and twenty-four months. The resolution containing the proposal included a suggestion for the appointment of inspectors; but two of the creditors, Mr. Boyson and Mr. Churchill, intimated that there was no necessity for this provision, it being the interest of Messrs. Sewells and Neck to effect a liquidation to the best possible advantage. Great sympathy was expressed during the discussion for the position to which the firm had been reduced through the panic of November and December; and it was unanimously decided that it was not desirable to enforce any supervision.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. S. BEGG AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. S. Begg and Co., engaged in the Australian trade, who failed on the 7th December, was held on the 13th January, when the subjoined statement, prepared by Mr. Tuppling, the accountant, was presented. The debts, it will be noticed, represent £18,769, and the assets £10,239, showing a dividend of about 12*s.* in the pound; but as some of the latter are considered to have been overestimated, the nearer amount is regarded as 10*s.* A proposal to pay 8*s.* by instalments, the last one secured to the satisfaction of a committee, was, after a general discussion, adopted. The professional representatives of the firm are Messrs. Hudson and Francis.

Dr.

To creditors, viz.:—			
Of S. Begg and Co.	£4,387 10 5		
Of S. Begg	12,146 6 3		
In Melbourne, September 30th, 1857	1,574 11 5		
		£18,108 8 1	
To creditors secured	3,792 1 11		
Estimated value of property in their hands	3,906 2 6		
Surplus, see contra ...	114 0 7		
To liabilities, viz.:—			
On bills receivable	12,440 0 0		
On consignments	1,110 6 6		
	£13,440 6 6		
Of which the sum of is considered bad		661 2 2	
		£18,769 10 3	

Cr.					
By debtors, viz.:—					
Good			£1,000	0	0
Doubtful	£678	14	0		
Estimated to produce			339	7	0
					£1,339
Bad	1,120	6	9		
Debts in Melbourne on Sept. 30th, 1857, estimated at					1,700
Estimated value of property in the hands of creditors over and above the advances thereon					114
By property, viz.:—					
In Melbourne			£3,170	2	7
Shipments in or on the way to Melbourne			3,250	0	0
Life policies			250	0	0
					6,670
By balance of cash, viz.:—					
At London and Westminster Bank			3	18	9
In hand			386	13	8
Bill receivable			24	14	10
					415
Deficiency					8,530
					£18,761

THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE BANK ACTS.

In the House of Commons on the 8th February the Chancellor of chequer moved the nomination of the following members to serve Select Committee on the Bank Acts, viz.:—The Chancellor of t chequer, Mr. Disraeli, Sir James Graham, Mr. Spooner, Sir Charle Mr. George A. Hamilton, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Cayley, Sir Francis Mr. Vance, Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Wilson, Mr. I Mr. Weguelin, Mr. Hankey, Mr. Hope Johnstone, Mr. Ennis, Mr the Earl of Gifford, Mr. Fergus, Mr. John L. Ricardo, Mr. Price, Tucker Smith, and Mr. Glyn.

Mr. Cayley suggested that the hon. members for Bath and Cam shire should be added to the committee.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that he had substituted t member for Liverpool for the hon. member for Cambridgeshire, be had been represented to him that there was a want of commercial n on the committee. He had no personal object in the nomination submitted that the committee was already a large one.

Mr. Greer hoped that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would n on the nomination of the committee that evening. He hoped th cantile men and the representatives of the railway and shipping would be added to the committee.

Mr. Bentinck said that one would imagine from what was co said in that House that England was composed of nothing but ci boroughs, and he must enter his protest against the system which invariably adopted of endeavouring to supersede the agricultural i in committees.

Mr. Tite did not complain of any personal discourtesy in his name being nitted from the committee, but, being connected with the joint-stock nk interest of the city of London, and having diligently attended the tings of the committee, he should have been glad to continue to be a mber if the public interests had required his attendance.

Mr. Ball could not suppose that any personal discourtesy was intended him. It happened, however, that eighteen out of the twenty-five mem-ers of the committee were connected with commerce, and it was not fair the agricultural interest that it should only be represented by seven nembers.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer disclaimed any feeling of personal dis-ourtesy towards the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ball), whose good temper and rbanity were recognised by members on both sides of the House. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Henley could not admit that the agricultural interests were not deeply interested in this question. The question of the country banks was involved, and it was ill-judged to put off from the committee an hon. member (Mr. Ball) who was so well acquainted with this particular branch of the subject. (Hear.)

Mr. Cairns believed that great satisfaction would be felt in Scotland and Ireland that the banking interests of those countries were about to be better represented on the committee than they had hitherto been.

Lord J. Manners thought that there was no ground for dismissing the hon. members for Bath and Cambridgeshire. The latter hon. member was in an especial manner the representative of the tenant farmers of England, who were greatly interested in this question. (Hear.)

Mr. Price thought that the joint-stock banks and country banks of issue had a claim to be represented, but he had no wish to sit upon the committee.

After a few words from Sir J. Shelley,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer consented to the omission of the two names objected to, and to move the restoration of those of Mr. Ball and Mr Tite.

It was then agreed that the committee should consist of twenty-five members, and the following gentlemen were appointed:—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Disraeli, Sir J. Graham, Mr. Spooner, Sir Charles Wood, Mr. G. A. Hamilton, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Cayley, Sir Francis Baring, Mr. Vance, Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Weguelin, Mr. Hankey, Mr. Hope Johnstone, Mr. Ennis, Mr. Puller, the Earl of Gifford, Mr. Fergus, Mr. John L. Ricardo, Mr. Tucker Smith, Mr. Glyn, Mr. E. Ball, and Mr. Tite.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Board of Trade returns for the month of December were issued on the 15th February, and exhibit a reduction of £2,897,185 in the declared value of our exportations, the total for the month being £7,148,041 against £10,045,226 in 1856, and £8,815,442 in 1855. The chief falling off was in Manchester goods, but there was also a heavy diminution in linens, silks, and woollens.

These returns comprise also the totals for the entire year 1857, of which an abstract is given in the following tables. Notwithstanding

the reaction in the closing months, the aggregate value of our exportations was beyond any former amount, the increase being £7,328,289 as compared with 1856, and £26,467,152 upon 1855. Among the items of increase machinery is most prominent, affording a strong indication of our mechanical progress, and also of the stimulus imparted by the unnatural prices so long paid for produce of all kinds to a development of foreign and colonial factories. Coal likewise, partly from this cause, has been shipped in extraordinary quantities. Metals figure next in importance, and then woollen and cotton goods and leather. Linens and silks show a reduction.

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Years ending Dec. 31, 1856, and Dec. 31, 1857.	1856.	1857.	Increase.	Decrease.
Apparel and slops	£1,816,310	£2,153,393	£337,083	—
Beer and ale	1,455,043	1,592,130	137,087	—
Books	425,355	421,692	—	3,663
Butter	693,777	562,151	—	131,626
Candles	305,137	281,313	—	23,824
Cheese	160,232	113,892	—	46,340
Coals and culm	2,826,582	3,200,551	373,969	—
Cordage	278,432	246,897	—	31,535
Cottons	30,204,166	30,421,056	216,890	—
Cotton yarn	8,028,575	8,691,853	663,278	—
Earthenware	1,334,118	1,488,668	154,550	—
Fish	519,795	651,534	131,739	—
Furniture	208,103	288,868	80,765	—
Glass	581,972	657,720	75,748	—
Haberdashery	3,638,358	3,895,945	257,587	—
Hardwares	3,747,598	4,016,327	268,729	—
Leather	1,756,451	2,301,076	544,625	—
Linens	4,887,780	4,511,454	—	376,326
Linen yarn	1,365,980	1,647,879	281,899	—
Machinery	2,716,453	3,883,023	1,166,570	—
Iron and steel	12,966,109	13,594,328	628,219	—
Copper and brass	2,648,259	3,115,921	467,662	—
Lead	734,204	728,002	—	6,202
Tin	1,646,842	1,799,603	152,761	—
Oil seed	1,079,748	664,214	—	415,534
Painters' colours	435,813	442,719	6,906	—
Pickles and sauces	394,164	355,496	—	38,668
Plate and jewellery	481,317	544,533	63,216	—
Salt	401,182	341,019	—	60,163
Silks	2,962,056	2,918,479	—	43,577
Soap	276,242	239,969	—	36,273
Soda	608,499	759,426	150,927	—
Spirits	998,445	751,565	—	246,880
Stationery	720,390	743,548	23,158	—
Sugar, refined	806,445	356,894	—	449,551
Wool	950,193	1,088,918	138,725	—
Woollens	9,500,428	10,705,421	1,204,993	—
Woollen Yarn	2,889,642	2,941,765	52,123	—
Unenumerated articles	8,376,753	9,035,995	659,242	—
Total	115,826,948	122,155,237		

With regard to imported commodities there are few very extraordinary features, the general consumption having been steady. The importation of tea, however, shows a considerable decrease, while in the quantity taken into use there has been an augmentation. Wheat, flour, and Indian corn exhibit a reduction both in imports and consumption. In the arrivals of grain of other descriptions there has been an increase.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption :—

Months ending Nov. 30, 1856, and Nov. 30, 1857.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1856.	1857.	1856.	1857.
Grain, wheat, qrs.	4,072,833	3,437,057	4,107,941	3,475,234
Grain of other descriptions, qrs.	2,317,560	3,877,443	2,334,661	3,921,780
Indian corn, qrs....	1,777,813	1,150,783	1,788,212	1,158,752
Flour and meal, cwt.	3,977,780	2,179,240	4,024,738	2,213,261
Provisions—Bacon, &c. &c., cwt.	853,425	789,466	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt.	919,715	837,586	894,642	828,601
Animals, No.	238,281	280,847	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	117,230,600	127,039,600	117,395,600	127,011,200
Cocoa, lb.	7,343,475	7,256,520	3,762,724	2,777,194
Coffee, lb.	56,992,116	58,912,629	35,140,252	34,518,555
Sugar, cwt.	7,761,240	8,391,615	7,240,636	7,348,533
Tea, lb....	86,200,414	64,494,297	63,295,643	69,159,843
Rice, cwt.	3,692,001	3,432,307	1,439,726	1,509,944
Spirits, gallons	9,905,338	9,593,993	4,986,084	4,715,638
Wines, gallons	9,481,880	10,340,094	7,365,874	7,044,636
Tobacco, lb.	46,664,665	43,748,012	32,579,168	32,856,913
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt...	618,318	726,137	494,325	441,306
Lemons and oranges, bushels ..	695,593	932,659	719,028	917,899
Spices, lb.	11,272,998	5,926,683	3,999,128	3,837,428
Ditto, cwt.	28,718	53,350	18,388	16,033

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing an increase in all except hemp and cotton :—

Years ending Dec. 31, 1856, and Dec. 31, 1857.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1856.	1857.	1856.	1857.
Flax, cwt.	1,687,014	1,866,250	—	—
Hemp, cwt	1,527,726	1,439,622	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	7,383,672	12,077,931	1,438,598	1,706,625
Cotton, cwt....	9,141,842	8,654,777	1,309,472	1,177,935
Wool, lb.	113,236,899	127,390,885	26,597,809	36,356,348
Tallow, cwt.	1,122,736	1,215,023	—	—

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Years ending Dec. 31, 1856, and Dec. 31, 1857.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1856.	1857.	1856.	1857.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	904,813	726,774	879,821	705,663
Ditto of India, pieces	601,461	370,807	108,193	93,014

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor acc of the Bank of France, made up to Thursday, February 11 :—

Debtor.	F.	c.	Creditor.	F.
Capital of the Bank	91,250,000	0	Cash in hand	83,778,7
Ditto, New	91,250,000	0	Cash in the branch banks	199,075,2
Profits in addition to capital (Art. 8, Law of June 9, 1857)	1,435,505	74	Commercial bills overdue	3,476,4
			Do. discounted, but not due	244,372,4
			Ditto in the branch banks	228,551,2
Reserve of the Bank	12,980,759	14	Advanced on deposit of bullion	2,040,0
New reserve	9,125,000	0	Do. by the branch banks	2,188,9
Ditto in landed property...	4,000,000	0	Do. on French public securities	23,472,9
Bank notes in circulation	528,048,800	0	Do. by the branch banks	7,893,8
Ditto of the branch banks	44,653,050	0	Do. on railway securities	48,805,5
Bank notes to order	5,871,408	26	Do. by the branch banks	13,975,2
Receipts payable at sight	3,039,342	0	Do. on Crédit Foncier scrip	225,0
Treasury account-current, creditor	78,635,287	27	Do. on branch banks scrip	100,0
Sundry accounts-current...	117,626,948	51	Do. to the State on agreement of June 30, 1848...	50,000,0
Do. with the branch banks	28,389,515	0	Government stock reserved	12,980,7
Dividends payable	2,157,895	25	Ditto disposable	52,189,4
Discounts and sundry interests	1,424,466	31	New shares, not settled ..	42,114,5
Commission on deposits ...	4,438,846	92	Hotel & furniture of the Bk.	4,000,0
Re-discounted during the last six months	2,209,982	52	Landed property of the branch banks	5,663,6
Sundries	8,222,270	97	Expenses of the Bank ...	466,8
			Premium on the purchases of gold and silver	4,488,5
			Sundries	—
F.	1,029,759,068	89	F.	1,029,759,0

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, De Germin

These figures are favourable as regards the strengthening of the pos of the establishment, but they show a general contraction of busi There is an increase of £1,260,000 in the stock of bullion, which stands at £11,315,000, while in the notes in circulation there has be diminution of £350,000. There has been a reduction of £1,160,000 in deposits, and of £2,840,000 in the discounts; but the Treasury bal shows an augmentation of £640,000. In the advances on railway s there has been the rather large increase of £544,000, while those on re have been reduced by £17,500.

THE WESTERN BANK OF GLASGOW.

The special meeting, called for the purpose of confirming the resolu come to at the meeting on the 30th December to wind-up, and ano special meeting for the appointment of liquidators, took place on the February, in the Trades'-hall, Glasgow, Mr. James Dunlop, of Clyde I works, in the chair. The meeting was attended more largely than an the former ones.

The chairman proposed the first resolution—"That this meeting con the resolution passed at a special general meeting of the company on

30th December last, requiring the company to be wound up voluntarily." Mr. R. Wilson seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

Mr. Fleming read a statement with regard to the bank's affairs, as they appeared at the 15th January last in comparison with the 9th November. From this statement there appeared a considerable reduction on various items under the head of liabilities, but as these were met by a corresponding reduction under the head of assets, the result was to bring out, as before, a deficiency of £304,692. Mr. Fleming, in the course of his remarks, stated that the cash in hand available for the Western Bank amounted to nearly £450,000. He also took occasion to mention that a shareholder in the bank had put £20,000 into his hands to apply to the payment of small deposits and other trifling sums.

Mr. Ewing submitted the following resolution—"That Robert Lumsden, Inspector of the Bank of Scotland, James Simpson Fleming, present manager *pro tempore* of the Western Bank, Charles Gardiner, accountant, in Glasgow, and Samuel Raleigh, accountant, in Edinburgh, be severally appointed liquidators in terms of the Act, for the purpose of winding-up voluntarily the affairs of the company. Mr. M'Clelland seconded the motion. Carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Blackadder then moved the following resolution—"That the remuneration to be paid to the said liquidators shall be and is here fixed as follows:—The sum of £2,000 sterling per annum to Robert Lumsden, and £1,000 sterling per annum to each of the said James Simpson Fleming, Charles Gardiner and Samuel Raleigh, during the first two years; at the end of which time, said remunerations shall be subject to revision, either by agreement, or, in case of difference, by arbitration." Mr. Bryson seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Captain Maconnochie hoped that the meeting would distinctly express an opinion that these liquidators would be bound to show to any shareholder making inquiry the whole books and documents connected with the business, and to throw no obstacles in the way of those shareholders who wished *data* upon which to institute proceedings against the directors.

This proposal of Captain Maconnochie's was supported by various shareholders and finally agreed to.

Mr. Bell moved the appointment of a committee of shareholders to cooperate with the liquidators.

Mr. Whigan Tertius seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Banking and Commercial Law.

SPECIAL INDORSEMENTS ON BILLS OF EXCHANGE AND PROMISSORY NOTES.

The case of *Sigourney* v. *Lloyd*, which we gave at length in our last number, is very peculiar, and in applying the doctrine it established to any subsequent case it is necessary to be cautious in observing that the facts are analogous. It appears to create an exception to the rule we propose to discuss in this paper, and which rule is:—that when a bill has been once indorsed

in blank no subsequent indorse can restrain its negotiability by a special indorsement.

In *Sigourney* v. *Lloyd* it seems doubtful whether the words used constituted an indorsement. They seem rather to amount to what Mr. Justice Wilmot, in *Edie* v. *The East India Company*, 1 Bla. R. 295, calls a mere naked authority to a person to receive. That judge there said:—"There is a great deal of difference between giving a naked authority to receive it, and transferring it over by indorsement. And I doubt whether he can limit his indorsement of it by way of assignment or transfer to another, so as to preclude his assignee from assigning it over as a thing negotiable, for the assignee purchases it for a valuable consideration, and therefore purchases it with all its privileges, qualities and advantages, one of which is its negotiability. To be sure he may give a mere naked authority to a person to receive it for him. He may write upon it, '*Pray pay the money to my servant, for my use*,' or use such expressions as necessarily import that he does not mean to indorse it over, but is only authorising a particular person to receive it for him and for his own use."

In *Smith* v. *Clarke*, Peake's Reports, 225, Lord Kenyon said:—"The fair holder of a bill may consider himself as the indorsee of the payee, and strike out all the other indorsements. This special indorsement being made after the payee had indorsed it, cannot affect the title of the present plaintiffs." That case was preceded by the cases of *Edie* v. *the East India Company*, *Peacock* v. *Rhodes*, and *Archer* v. *the Bank of England*—all to the same effect; and has been followed by the late case of *Walker* v. *Macdonald*, 17 Law J., Ex. 377, where the Court said:—"The case of *Smith* v. *Clarke*, which was cited in the course of the agreement, establishes the proposition which has ever since been acted upon, that where a bill has once become negotiable, no person can afterwards restrain its negotiability."

(To be continued.)

Legal Miscellany.

IN RE THE BANKRUPTCY OF MESSRS. HARRISON AND CO., BANKERS, OF HULL.—EX PARTE BARKWORTH.

THIS case came before the Lords Justices of Appeal on the 30th January, in the form of an appeal from the decision of Mr. Commissioner Ayrton, of Leeds.

It appeared that at and prior to the bankruptcy of the bankrupts, Messrs. Harrison and Co., bankers, at Hull, Messrs. Froggart and Co., timber merchants, of the same place, had an ordinary current account with them as

their customers. At the date of the adjudication, the bankers held certain short bills of exchange, which had been deposited with them by Messrs. Froggart, and for the full amount of which the latter had, at the time of the deposit, been credited in their account with the bankrupts. The question upon the appeal was, whether Mr. Commissioner Ayrton, of the Leeds district, had properly decided that the bills were the property of the customers, and ought to be delivered up to them by the assignees.

Their lordships dismissed the appeal, directing that the respondents should have their costs out of the estate, and leaving those of the assignees to be disposed of by the commissioner.

THE HASTINGS OLD BANK.—IN RE HILDER AND SMITH.

THERE was a meeting in this case at the Court of Bankruptcy on the 5th February, before Mr. Commissioner Fane. The only noticeable feature was a complaint by Mr. Bagley that Mr. Hilder, one of the partners in the bank, had not discharged his duty to his creditors. The bankrupt declined to sign his balance-sheet. A most important book had been destroyed by his wife after the bankruptcy. A sum of £300 was unaccounted for. A few days before the bankruptcy Mr. Hilder made cross entries in his books. A stock or balance-sheet referring to a sum of £1,700 was not forthcoming. Some of the notes comprising this sum had been traced to several persons, including John Hilder, the bankrupt's son. These were preferential payments. The book destroyed by the bankrupt's wife was a private ledger, and at page 19, as was ascertained from references in the Robertsbridge books, was contained the account of John Hilder. John Hilder had made a proof against the estate. The assignees believed that he was a debtor, instead of a creditor. Some of the entries in the Robertsbridge books were made by John Hilder, the son, and referred to the private ledger as "P. L." The bankrupt stated that owing to his age and infirmities, he allowed his son to make entries in his books. Mr. Bagley, however, urged that the bankrupt had told his son to help himself to money, and that he had helped himself accordingly. The order was unlimited.

An adjournment was ordered to the 11th March.

THE WORCESTER BANK.

THE balance-sheets of Messrs. Farley and Co., bankers, of Worcester, were filed on the 8th February, in the Bankruptcy Court, being within the statutory time, a circumstance heretofore unknown in connexion with a matter of such magnitude. It exhibits an amount due to creditors, in the aggregate, £85,000; and in circulation, £3,900; total, £88,900. On the other side are good and secured debts, £29,000; property, £8,700; bills and cash in hand, £6,500; total, £43,200; and the deficiency, £40,000. It may be therefore expected that the joint estate will pay nearly 10*s.* in the pound; and if the expectations from the late Mr. Lavender's estate are carried into effect that dividend will be a matter of certainty. The balance-sheet commences in June, 1848, at the death of Mr. George Lavender, leaving Mr. Owen and Mr. Gutch the only remaining partners, at which time the capital had been reduced £5,600. It may be said that the bank had been languishing for several years previously. Besides the balance-sheets of June, 1848, and at the suspension, the series of accounts comprise a satisfactory statement of affairs at Mr. Lavender's death in June, 1846,

when the capital was £21,000. Bad debts to an enormous amount have been written off. The partners' drawings have been very moderate, and it is quite certain that the stoppage was at last brought about by the exhaustion of means in advances to parties who were unworthy of credit. The private balance-sheet of Mr. Owen and Mr. Gutch shows that if the claims of Mr. Lavender's estate are relinquished there will be about £10,000 surplus to go over to the joint estate.

IN RE THE NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY.—WINDING-UP.

THIS case has been brought before Vice-Chancellor Kindersley, in the Court of Chancery. It came before the Court on the presentation of cross petitions; one by two gentlemen named Milner and Cookson, one being a creditor and the other a shareholder, for the voluntary winding-up of the company under the recent act of Parliament, and the other for the compulsory winding-up under the Winding-up Act. The points raised appeared to be two; first, whether the winding-up should be voluntary or compulsory; and secondly, whether Mr. Coleman and Mr. Williams should be added to the present liquidators.—Mr. Bailey appeared for the petition for a voluntary winding-up, and contended that the liquidators now appointed were perfectly competent and proper, viz., Messrs. Elliot, Bainbridge and Fain, and contended that under the voluntary winding-up everything necessary could be done. Mr. Greene appeared for Messrs. Glyn and other creditors, and proposed that Mr. Coleman should be added to the number; Mr. Bagshawe and Mr. Jessel, for other creditors, took the same view, Mr. Amphlett and Mr. Cotton, for the Banks of England and Scotland, being creditors to the amount of £500,000, supported the compulsory winding-up, or, at all events, the appointment of Mr. Coleman. It was stated that the liabilities of the bank exceed £2,000,000, and that in order to cover the deficiency of assets a call of £15 for every £10 share will be required. The point in the case, if point it can be called, where the whole thing was a mass of confusion, appeared to be whether the Vice-Chancellor had power to direct a call, and if directed, power to enforce it.

The Vice-Chancellor gave judgment on the 16th February. He said the object of one petition was for a voluntary winding-up, and the other was the petition of four firms, asking if there were a voluntary winding-up, that there should be added two coadjutors, Mr. Williams, of the firm of Glyn and Co., and Mr. Coleman. Premising that there could be no objection personally either to Mr. Coleman or Mr. Williams, he was of opinion that three liquidators were better than five or seven; therefore, he should direct the present liquidators to continue their services, without any addition, and that it should be a voluntary winding-up, subject to the following restrictions under his own supervision:—First, the liquidators should not bring any action or institute any suit against shareholders for calls without the leave of the Court; secondly, that the liquidators should not compound, or compromise, or release any debt or claim as between shareholder and the company, or creditors or debtor, except under the sanction of the Court; and thirdly, that under the 17th section of the Act of 1857, the creditors should, if they thought proper, appoint a committee, the Court giving every facility by access to accounts, &c., with liberty to any creditor shareholder, liquidator, or other person to apply.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

BANK OF BOMBAY.

Notice is hereby given, that a dividend for the half-year ending 31st ultimo, of rupees forty-five per share, being at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum on the capital stock of the bank, will be paid to the proprietors, on and after Wednesday, the 13th inst.

The transfer books are closed from this date until the payment of the dividend as above.

By order of the board of directors,
JOHN STUART,
Secretary and Treasurer.

Bombay, 5th January, 1858.

Statement of the Affairs of the Bank of Bombay on the 31st December, 1857.

LIABILITIES.

To proprietors' capital	Rs.	52,25,000	0 0
Bank notes and post bills in circulation ...	...	89,74,038	2 7
Deposits and all other liabilities	...	22,49,432	10 9
Reserved fund, including profit for the half-year	...	4,33,742	2 4
	Rs.	1,68,82,212	15 8

ASSETS.

By Government securities	Rs.	40,48,000	0 0
Loans and cash credit accounts on deposit of securities		51,66,082	12 8
Bills discounted		26,09,877	13 8
Other securities		2,54,432	12 5
Cash on hand		48,03,819	8 11
	Rs.	1,68,82,212	15 8

Profit and Loss Account.

To six months' dividend on the capital stock, at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, paid on the 6th July, 1857	Rs.	1,82,875	0 0
Six months' dividend, at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, payable on the 13th instant		2,35,125	0 0
Balance of reserved fund		1,98,617	2 4
	Rs.	6,16,617	2 4
By balance of reserved fund on the 31st December, 1856	R.	54,573	13 4
Profit of the year ending 31st December, 1857, after paying all the current expenses of the bank ...		5,62,043	5 0
	Rs.	6,16,617	2 4

Published for the information of the proprietors,
By order of the board of directors,
JOHN STUART, Secretary and Treasurer.

SHEFFIELD BANKING COMPANY.

THE twenty-sixth annual meeting of this bank was held on Friday, the 29th January, Mr. S. Bailey in the chair, when the following report and accounts were presented and adopted.

The first subject which the directors have to mention on the present occasion is that those measures for the increase of the capital of the company, and for the completion of the new deed of settlement, which were briefly adverted to in their report of last year, as then in progress, have been since carried out. New calls have been made and new shares issued, as will be more particularly set forth in the sequel. One effect of these measures has been an accession of new shareholders, who now, for the first time, have an opportunity of being present at a general meeting of the company, and hearing a statement of its affairs. The latter part of the past year, as every one must be aware, has been a period of great solicitude to the directors, requiring more than usual vigilance and attention to the important interests entrusted to them. A commercial convulsion, such as this country has scarcely ever before experienced, could not happen without bringing with it responsibilities of no light character. It became necessary for the directors, amidst the difficulties which ensued, when every day seemed teeming with fresh disasters, so to steer their course that they might both protect the company, and, as far as compatible with that paramount object, assist its customers to weather the storm. They are happy to say that the bank has passed through the crisis, not only without damage, but without any material hindrance to the prosperity of its career, proving the soundness of that system on which, from the first formation of the company, its concerns, as far as practicable, in the face of some opposing customs and prejudices, have been conducted. The returns of the bank in 1857, notwithstanding all these vicissitudes, have rather exceeded those of the preceding year, and the balance of profit and loss account shows a net gain correspondingly increased, being £30,847 12*s.* 5*d.*, against £28,858 8*s.* 5*d.* in 1856.

The distribution which the directors have made of this amount is as follows:—

Dividend on paid-up capital at the rate of 17½ per cent. ...	£24,258	5	11
Income tax	1,432	5	0
Surplus fund	5,157	1	6
	£30,847	12	5

For this dividend, warrants will be immediately issued to the shareholders, payable on the 5th proximo. It may be well to add that the per centage is calculated on the old shares for a year, but on the new shares from the day of payment appointed for each call. At such times as the present, the subject of losses, from commercial failures, is naturally looked to with anxious interest. The directors have, therefore, more than ordinary satisfaction in making the communication that follows:—The whole amount of bad debts, which, after a close inspection of the accounts as they stood on the 31st of last December, they have had to write off is only £85 18*s.* 11*d.* But this small loss is not the only circumstance in the case for congratulation. From several sources the bank has recovered small debts formerly treated as lost, to the amount of £47 15*s.* 9*d.*; and in addition to this the directors have to record the receipt from Messrs. Ibbotson Brothers and Co. of £211 18*s.* 6*d.*, being the entire loss sustained

nk in their account when they compromised with their creditors, ı was placed in due course amongst the bad debts of the year occurred. Putting these recovered sums on one side, and the fore mentioned on the other, the directors find an actual gain ıd debt account of £173 15*s.* 4*d.*—a singular result in a year rdinary mercantile disaster. The upright and honourable con- Messrs. Ibbotson Brothers and Co., in thus repaying to their debts from which they had received a legal discharge, cannot ı felt as it deserves by the community in which they live, and ; with propriety be passed over here without a tribute to its d social value, especially as it presents a striking and cheering to those stupendous instances of commercial fraud and forgery ve disgraced the age.

xt topic on which the directors have to report is the state of the nd.

t report it stood at	£54,997	18	6
sum are now to be added the following items :—			
s on shares allotted during the past year ...	5,643	0	0
ransferred from bad debt account	173	15	4
ransferred from profit and loss account, being livided profits of 1857	5,157	1	6
Total	£65,971	15	4

increase over the preceding year of £10,973 16*s.* 10*d.*

pital account also shows a considerable increase, as, of course, it from the issue of new shares.

t report, the paid-up capital was	£118,320	0	0
ıe past year, 1857, there have been allotted the wing shares, which have been all paid up :—			
ld shares of £200 each, £80 paid up ...	800	0	0
new shares of £50 each, £20 paid up ...	36,960	0	0
Making the total paid-up capital ...	£156,080	0	0
ı be added the amount of surplus fund	65,971	15	4
ing capital of the company will stand at ...	£222,051	15	4

rectors have spoken of their own solicitude during the recent s; but it is also right to mention that it was fully shared by their nd able manager, whose mental activity and thoughtful vigilance constant requisition. They are persuaded therefore that the lers will learn with satisfaction that the board have presented him itable gratuity, in testimony of their sense of his services, and as ıpensation for the more than ordinary anxieties of his position. ıs to add, that some further improvements have been made in the mises, particularly the erection of a large fire-proof iron safe, on construction, which supplies a deficiency long felt, and has already reedingly useful. It is highly satisfactory to the directors to be ollow up the preceding details of the successful progress of the ncern, by specially reporting that the company's branch bank at ın is going on prosperously, under the careful and judicious nent of their agent in that town.

General Balance-sheet of the Sheffield Banking Company, 31st December, 1857.

ASSETS.

Bills, notes, and cash in hand, and balances owing to the company	£887,708	0	5
Stamps on hand	59	1	1
Bank premises and furniture at Sheffield and Rotherham	5,188	19	6
	£892,956	1	0

LIABILITIES.

Paid-up capital of £80 per share, on 1,489 shares ...	£119,120	0	0
Paid-up capital of £20 per share, on 1848 £50 shares	36,960	0	0
Surplus fund	65,971	15	4
Balance of accounts due to customers, deposits, and notes in circulation	646,645	19	9
Balance of profit and loss to be divided	24,258	5	11
	£892,956	1	0

At the close of the proceedings the dividend recommended was adopted, and votes of thanks were passed to the directors, the manager, Mr. J. H. Barber, and the rest of the officers of the bank.

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY.

The general meeting of the proprietors in this company was held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, on the 29th January, for the purpose of receiving the report of the directors, and on other business, Mr. Charles Russell, M.P., chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, then read the report and statement of accounts, as follows:—

The directors have pleasure in laying before the shareholders a statement of the affairs of the company for the past six months, from which it will be seen that the gross profits for that period have amounted to £38,077 10*s.* 9*d.*; and that after paying the current expenses, making ample provision for any probable loss on bills returned or expected to be returned, and setting aside the large sum of £18,400 9*s.* 9*d.* for rebate of interest on bills not yet due, there remains a balance of £4,920 11*s.* 8*d.* Of this amount your directors have appropriated £1,793 17*s.* 2*d.* towards payment of the preliminary expenses, carrying forward the sum of £3,126 14*s.* 6*d.* to the next half-year's account.

Although the prospects of the money market at the end of the year would have justified your directors in taking the rebate of interest on bills not yet due at a much lower rate, and thus showing a larger amount of profit, they have thought it right to act upon the principle previously adopted, of estimating it at the value of money on the day when the accounts were closed; leaving to the current half-year the advantages arising from the reduced rates which have since prevailed.

The directors trust that, looking to the extent and severity of the crisis, through which the commercial world has lately passed, and which has

added so greatly to their labours and anxieties, the result of their operations will be regarded as highly satisfactory.

Based upon a large capital, without which recent experience has shown that extensive dealings in money cannot be safely conducted through times of distrust and difficulty—with that capital maintained in its full integrity—with an influential proprietary to confirm the security it affords—with the information and experience which your managers have acquired, and with the large connection formed—the business of the company is becoming daily more firmly established, and its ultimate success assured.

The directors regret to announce the retirement of their respected colleagues, J. U. Ellis, Esq., and Edward Warner, Esq., who, being no longer resident in London, were unable to give their attention to your interests. The election of George Nicholas, Esq., C. R. Fenwick, Esq., and J. R. Thomson, Esq., to seats in the direction require the confirmation of the shareholders. The directors who go out of office by rotation on this occasion, in conformity with the terms of the deed of settlement, are M. H. Chaytor, Esq., Edward Hales, Esq., and A. Mackenzie, Esq., who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The shareholders will have to elect two auditors, as required by the deed of settlement.

Balance-sheet.

Dr.			
To capital called up, viz :—			
£5 per share on 78,329 shares	£391,645		
Less calls unpaid	5,040		
		£386,605	0 0
Amount due by the company on loans, deposits, &c.		1,556,804	7 2
Amount at credit of profit and loss account, as shown on statement B		3,126	14 6
		£1,946,536	1 8
Cr.			
By cash at bankers		£21,567	17 3
Bills discounted, &c.		1,899,381	5 10
Preliminary expenses		4,000	0 0
Premises in Cornhill		21,586	18 7
		£1,946,536	1 8

Profit and Loss Account.

Dr.			
To current expenses, including salaries, rent, stationery, advertising, directors' and auditors' remuneration, &c.		£3,756	9 4
Reserve this half-year to meet bad debts		11,000	0 0
Rebate of interest at 6½ per cent. on bills not due, carried to the new account		18,400	9 9
Amount written off preliminary expenses	£1,793 17 2		
Net balance	3,126 14 6		
		4,920	11 8
		£38,077	10 9
Cr.			
By gross profit during the half-year		£38,077	10 9

The chairman, in moving that the report and statement of accoun received and adopted, said he might give them more information than report contained. Since they last met they had passed through a eventful period, a crisis which none could have foreseen, and w surpassed the crisis of 1847. He then detailed the proceedings of pa ment in removing the restriction on the Bank issues, and said tha directors had felt the greatest anxiety as to the result, considering that company did no other business than in bills of exchange. Althoug directors had not come forward with a dividend, yet he thought there great matter of congratulation that they stood in as good a position as did. When they looked at the past times he found that up to Octobe the business of the company was increasing to a most wonderful ex until that crisis took place of which they all knew. He regrett say that the result of the crisis caused the company a loss of £5 whereas, before that time there had been scarcely any bad debts. Lo to the future he congratuled the company on the fact of having £ carried forward to the next account. The company had now a connection, and he thought that they would eventually do a very business; and although these crises had great effect on the community good resulted from them eventually. His opinion was that the trade commerce of this country were as sound as ever they had been, and the enterprise of the British merchant would extend the trade and comm of the country, and that civilisation would follow as it always did in course of that extension of commerce. In conclusion he moved tha report and statement of accounts be received and adopted.

Mr. Chaytor seconded the motion, after which

Mr. Baker proceeded at great length to denounce the system on w the various reports had been drawn up, and expressed his intenti moving an amendment to the adoption of the report. He contended in the first half-year the accounts had been made to appear too flouris for too little had been allowed for the rebate on bills. In conclusio moved that the directors be requested to take measures for winding-u company and dissolving it.

The amendment having been seconded by Mr. M'Dougall,

The chairman said that it was out of order to move such an amend without giving notice, according to the act of parliament.

Mr. Baker said that he would withdraw it, to put another in a p form, and suggested whether it would not be in order to move that a sp meeting be called to consider his motion.

Mr. Clarke then put the motion for the adoption of the report, whic carried.

Mr. Bass, M.P., trusted that the directors would give some explan as to their present position.

The chairman said the main part of the charge brought against them the arrangement of the accounts,

Mr. Baker.—No, it is that you did not allow sufficient for the reba bills.

The chairman said the opinion was that quite sufficient was reserv meet any bad debts. (Hear, hear.) They were also charged with not h made a £5 call instead of issuing the new shares, and in answer to th said that a meeting had been called officially to consider that question he denied that the directors had ever in these matters taken the shareh by surprise. In reference to the question of the remuneration o directors, he reminded them that in a company like this the duties board of directors were very heavy, and he warned them of the fa

panies, resulting from not having their affairs properly con-

ctors were then elected, and after the transaction of some routine e proceedings terminated.

WOLVERHAMPTON AND STAFFORDSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.

nual meeting of the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Banking held on the 1st February, Mr. George Briscoe in the chair, the he committee of investigation was submitted. After adverting ng of £50,000 by the shareholders, as well as to a satisfactory tained of the value of the bills in hand, and the appointment of manager, it noticed the registration of the company under the k Companies Act, and stated that in dealing with the insolvent f the bank every effort had been made to root out the unsound by which the district had lately suffered. It likewise announced 100,000 promised by the directors had been duly contributed. t having been adopted, the directors' report was then read, to hat the estates of the insolvent debtors to the establishment were stages of realisation, and were expected to yield more than was timated, and that the strictest attention was now paid to the he bank. The question as to whether the bank had forfeited late temporary suspension the right of issue has been submitted and, an opinion having obtained that the power still exists, a n of their note circulation is to receive early attention. In con- e directors hoped that the experience of the past may not be lost, port was adopted and some vacancies in the direction filled up.

H, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN CHARTERED BANK.

half-yearly general meeting of this company was held on the ary, at the offices in Cornhill; the chairman of the company, n, Esq., in the chair.

retary read the following report:—

ctors have the pleasure of referring to the subjoined statement, hibits the position of the bank at the branches on the 30th , and in London on the 31st December last, showing an extension ons, with an increase of profits, which cannot fail to be satisfac- e proprietors. The balance of profit and loss account (after de- 4,984 11*s.* 11*d.*, for interest paid or due to depositors) is s. 11*d.*, which sum the directors propose to apply as follows,

yment of a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per nm, free of income tax, on £500,000 the paid-up tal of the bank	£15,000	0	0
he reduction of the amounts at debit of—			
ry expenses	500	0	0
nises and furniture accounts	1,000	0	0
... ...	3,000	0	0
rried forward to the current half-year, and the ng	2,655	5	11
ed to the reserved fund, which will then amount	10,311	7	0

The directors adopt the course of carrying forward £3,000 in consequence of information, which they regret to say has arrived from Melbourne since the closing of the accounts now submitted, of the discovery of a fraud at that branch, the effect of which may entail a loss to that amount.

LIABILITIES.

Paid-up capital	£500,000	0	0
Deposits	361,919	8	7
Bills payable and other liabilities	128,195	18	9
Circulation	107,353	0	0
Reserved fund	7,656	1	1
Amount carried to profit and loss account	32,308	9	2
	£1,137,432	17	7

ASSETS.

Bills receivable, including those over-due, loans on security, cash at bankers, &c.	£898,305	18	3
Specie and bullion	176,624	0	1
Bank premises and furniture	54,422	13	2
Preliminary expenses	8,080	6	1
	£1,137,432	17	7

Profit and Loss Account.

To current expenses in Melbourne, Sydney, and sub-branches	£7,560	14	6
Ditto in London, including directors' remuneration and income tax	2,592	8	9
	£10,153	3	3
Balance	22,155	5	11
	£32,308	9	2

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said he had very few observations to make on the ordinary general business of the bank, which had gone on during the last half-year gradually improving; and it would be found that there was an increase in various items, displaying an extended business in the colonies and here during that period. But it must be observed that the profit was larger in proportion to the business done than those persons would be led to suppose. Their transactions had not only been larger, but they were of a better character. The profit, perhaps he should add, for the satisfaction of the shareholders, had not been occasioned by an increased rate of interest on money obtained in this country, though some gentlemen might imagine that might have enabled them to have made a larger profit than usual. But while the profit showed that three-fourths of the increase was made in the colonies, not more than one-fourth had been made in this country, so that they had not benefitted to that extent, or only to a small extent, by the increased interest on surplus money in London. The principal circumstance in the report which he had to allude to was the fraud which had been committed on the bank at Melbourne. The fact was stated in one short sentence in this report only, because the case was one which involved a great many details, which

uld have compelled the directors to make a very lengthened report, ilst there were matters of which the board were not sufficiently aware when it was drawn up. They, therefore, thought it better to take the ole amount of £3,000 as a loss and as bad, and to carry that sum as a bility, which they had to meet. The directors thought it the wiser urse to pursue, rather than by increasing nominally the reserve fund to larger amount; they stated it simply as a loss which was hanging over em. The fraud to which he referred was occasioned by what he must rm the abominable conduct of one of their clerks at Melbourne, who was e ledger keeper. It was not simply the abstraction of property by the ller, but it might be said to have been a conspiracy formed by the clerk d one of the customers of the bank. The clerk did not take the money, t he enabled the customer to overdraw his account, and the system was rried on for a long period with extraordinary cunning. The clerk made lse entries in the ledger, placing a large number of small sums to the edit of this man, and he did not debit him for cash drawn out, so that he lsified the accounts from beginning to end. This went on for some nths, and he had to exercise his ingenuity by hiding the person's name om other parties in the bank; and, in calling over with another and exmining the entries, he had learned by rote whatever he had to call over, d was thus enabled to mystify everything. Some months elapsed before was found that the customer's account was overdrawn to a considerable ount. A rigid inquiry then took place, and the fact was discovered that e accounts were wrong and falsified. An examination was made into ery item of account; since this man came into the service of the bank ith high testimonials as to character from another bank, therefore there as no suspicion as to his integrity. The customer himself, who was the nocctor and accomplice, had been committed in the first instance for ial for a conspiracy, and by the advices received by the present mail, he as glad to state that the man had been convicted, sentenced to three nths' imprisonment, to pay a fine of £3,000, and sentenced to be aprisoned until such fine was paid. (Hear.) These facts proved yond doubt the connivance of the party, while the misconduct of the erk was equally clear. The clerk, however, had escaped, though the olice entertained little doubt at the time that they should succeed in appreending him; but after hunting about for him in all directions their hopes ad been disappointed. In the loss they could hardly attribute blame to ny party; but they must hope that their staff would learn experience om the circumstance which had occurred, and that increased vigilance ould characterise future proceedings. To enable their officers to effect im, the directors had written out to the colony suggesting improved modes f checking accounts. By this mail they had advices that the sum of 3,000 would be more than sufficient to cover the loss, which was now timated at nearly £2,500. The bank was going on in a satisfactory nner; it was beginning to increase its operations, and letters received hat morning showed that in the two months subsequent to the half-yearly period there had been a steady progress in business.

Mr. Josiah Wilson begged to ask who would get the £3,000 if the person who had been convicted should pay it?

The Chairman said he believed it would belong to the Crown.

Mr. Borradaile—That was true, but the Government generally remitted it.

The Chairman feared the man was insolvent. In answer to the question which he found was mooted by the shareholders, he had to state that the name of the customer who had been convicted was Francis, who was a

storekeeper at Melbourne. The name of the clerk of the bank was Ray in whose case there were sureties to the amount of £1,000.

After some remarks as to the possibility and expediency of improv the mode of checking accounts—

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and t a dividend at the rate of £6 per cent. per annum, in accordance with report, be payable, free of income tax, on and after the 8th inst.

The motion having been seconded,

Mr. Josiah Wilson said there was a report that the bank allowed inte on deposits to the minimum point, even to a week only. He could har suppose such was the fact, was it so?

The Chairman replied it was quite true.

Mr. Josiah Wilson could only say that that was different from the prac adopted at the London and Westminster and other banks. He thou that if they gave interest to the smallest amount, even for a week, it w marvellous thing to do, and he begged to ask whether the directors thou such a system was desirable or wise. Why run a muck with other est lishments?

The Chairman could only say that the directors of this company had been the first to commence the system. They began monthly, then wee and then daily to allow interest, because other banks had done the sa and their inspector had thought it right and wise to do so. If it sho turn out that they had adopted a wrong course, the directors would ret their steps.

The report, &c., was received unanimously.

Mr. Thomas Wright Watson was unanimously re-elected a membe the board. Messrs. John Sanderson Rigge and Stephen Ponder w severally elected in the room of Messrs. John Robert Thompson William Ormsby Gore. Messrs. Philip Cazenove and Joseph Moore w severally re-elected auditors for the ensuing year.

A very cordial vote of confidence, proposed by Mr. Josiah Wilson which the chairman briefly replied, was carried with acclamation, and meeting separated.

PARES'S LEICESTERSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.

The twenty-second general annual meeting of the proprietors of this b was held at the Bell Hotel, Leicester, on the 3rd day of February, Mr W. Wood in the chair, when the following report was read and adopted

"The directors feel it to be impossible to present their annual repor the shareholders upon this occasion without referring at the outset to monetary crisis which occurred towards the close of the past year, which has been truly said to have marked it as a season of commer difficulty among the most severe on record. They are, however, gla inform the shareholders that, with the exception of the expenses incide the needful provision for such a state of anxiety and alarm, they have tained little other injury from this unexampled crisis than that which arise from the temporary contraction of business; and they can a speak of the present condition and future prospects of the bank as fectly sound and satisfactory. The amount of the year's profit, after deduction of expenses and losses, all due provision having been also m for doubtful debts, is £26,189 1

And with the balance left 31st December, 1856	...	... 2,000 0
Total	...	£28,189 1

proprietors have already received a dividend for the first half-year of 2*s.* 6*d.* per share, amounting to	£8,437	10	0
the directors recommend that to a similar dividend for the remaining half-year a bonus be added of five-shillings per share, which (deducting the income-tax) will together amount to	11,812	10	0
propose further to place to the reserved fund ...	5,000	0	0
to carry over to the profit of the present year (which is in truth a further reserve)	2,939	19	2
	£28,189	19	2

paid-up capital of the bank is	£168,750	0	0		
reserved fund, of which the amount last year was				£28,358	8 4
the proposed addition of				5,000	0 0
Will now be				£33,358	8 4

From the above statement it will be seen that the directors have recommended the appropriation of no inconsiderable part of the realised profits the year to the reserved fund; and when the vast extension of the trade the country during the last two or three years is considered, they feel ured that their recommendation will be approved. The directors cannot se this report without the expression of their deep regret at the loss ich they have sustained by Mr. Taylor's death. The vacancy in their rd thus unhappily created they filled up by the appointment of Mr. arles Burt Robinson for the current year, in pursuance of their deed of tlement.

At the close of the proceedings the report and accounts were agreed to, l votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Billson, the manager, and the other cers, for the zealous and efficient manner in which they have discharged ir several duties.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

e usual half-yearly meeting of the proprietors in this bank was held at London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, on the 4th of February, for the ption of the report of the directors, and on the ordinary business of the pany, Mr. William Champion Jones presiding.

he secretary submitted the following report and statement of accounts.

"The directors have much satisfaction in laying before the proprietors a ement of the affairs of the bank for the half year ending the 31st of ember, 1857. It will appear by the balance-sheet, signed by the auditors, t the net profit of the bank for the last half-year, after deducting all penses, income-tax, and rebate, and making a liberal provision for bad l doubtful debts, amounts to £42,894 11*s.* 4*d.*, including the balance of £14,145 0*s.* 8*d.* brought forward from the 30th of June last. From this e the directors have placed £5,000 to the credit of the reserved fund, l recommend the usual grant of £500 to the provident fund of the bank the year 1857. They further recommend that a dividend be now declared 6 per cent. for the half-year, free of income-tax, which, with 5 per cent. ady paid for the six months ending the 30th of June last, will be 11 per t. for the year 1857. Should these recommendations be adopted, there l remain a balance of £7,394 11*s.* 4*d.*, which it is proposed shall be car-

ried forward to profit and loss new account. The directors have to an that Thomas Tyringham Bernard, Esq., M.P. for Aylesbury, has the direction in the place of A. A. Hoghton, Esq., who has retired directors retiring by rotation are, William Cory, Esq.. James A Durham, Esq., and John Henry Lance, Esq., who respectively offer selves for re-election.

Balance-sheet.

Dr.

To capital paid up			£500,000
Reserved fund			100,000
Customers' balances, &c.			3,533,425
Profit and loss balance brought from last account	£14,145 0 8		
Ditto rebate, &c., ditto ...	9,614 1 8		
Gross profit for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts	112,243 1 6		
			136,002
			£4,269,427

Cr.

By cash on hand at head office and branches	£496,596 6 3		
By cash placed at call and at short notice	585,047 6 9		
			£1,081,643
Investments, viz. :—			
By government and guaranteed stocks	222,699 15 8		
By other stocks and securities ...	186,281 8 6		
			408,981
By discounted bills, notes, and temporary advances to customers in town and country	2,349,097 13 11		
Advances to customers on special securities	293,946 1 2		
			2,643,043
Freehold premises in Lombard-street and Nicholas-lane, freehold and leasehold property at the branches, with fixtures and fittings			52,491
Interests paid to customers			38,651
By salaries and all other expenses at head office and branches, including income tax			44,611
			£4,269,427

Profit and Loss Account.

To interest paid to customers	£38,651
Expenses, as above	44,611
Rebate on bills not due, &c., carried to profit and loss new account	9,643
Reserved fund	5,000
Carried forward	£98,107

Brought forward	£98,107	12	6
lend of 6 per cent. for the half-year	30,000	0	0
ident fund	500	0	0
nce carried forward to profit and loss new account	7,394	11	4
	£136,002	3	10
ice brought forward from last account ...	£14,145	0	8
te, &c., ditto	9,614	1	8
profit for the half-year, after making provision bad and doubtful debts	112,243	1	6
	£136,002	3	10

airman then moved that the report and statement of accounts be and adopted, and in doing so, said he was glad to meet them on ent occasion, as they had before them the accounts for the past r; and he should also ask their attention to the present advanand firm condition of this most important establishment. Since l last met in that room a commercial crisis had passed over the and the effects of it had been felt by many establishments, espese in the northern districts. But they had not met there for him hem how those banks and other establishments had been affected, (the directors) were simply bound to report to the proprietors in k the extent to which it had affected themselves. Out of the bills ant that had passed through this bank—and it must be remem- at the number was always very limited—a large portion had been and there was not more than £19,000 overdue. To show the con- the bank, he might quote the words of their experienced manager on to the firms that held these bills. He said—"There is no one firms from whom the loss of £100 might be apprehended." (Hear, He said he felt sure that such a statement must afford great relief ole of the proprietors. It was, in fact, a matter on which he could gratulate the whole body of proprietors, and themselves (the direcwell, that the distress had passed over the country and left so slight on this bank. During the whole of the period of the crisis, the had felt the greatest anxiety for the result, and they had placed um by in case of necessity. He must tell them, during the whole ime they had a sum of £1,400,000 ready to meet any exigency ht arise. (Hear, hear.) But that exigency did not occur. There no question that when the rate of discount was at 9 or 10 per the banks must have felt it slightly; but if they looked at the for the half-years in 1856 and 1857, they would find a slight excess in favour of 1857. The deposits had decreased £32,000, but that h less in amount than might have been anticipated; and since the g of the year, and when money became firmer, a large portion of had been made up. He must make a few remarks with regard ate of the stock of the company, which had stood most evenly ut, which was a mark of public confidence. He believed he was in saying that this company was the first to raise its voice against vagant rate of interest at the Bank of England. This bank told mers that if they were not satisfied with 8 per cent., they might their money, but there was not one that did so. Looking at the

accounts generally, he found that they stood at some few hundreds more, during the past half-year, than in any previous period. Another subject on which he wished to say a few words was with regard to the estates of Mr. Sadleir in Ireland. They were offered for sale in November last year, and the prices which they realised far exceeded the expectations of the directors, and fully met the securities which were held. The purchase had not yet been completed, but the rest of the money would be paid on the 15th or 16th of this month, when the shareholders would find that even their expectations had been fully realised. He went on to say that the directors had added £5,000 to the reserve fund, which now stood at £105,000, and assured the shareholders, with regard to the question of the issue of new shares, that the directors did not see the necessity for so doing, but if they should at a future period, they might depend upon the directors giving them every notice of their intentions. The chairman, in conclusion, moved that the report be received, adopted and printed.

Mr. Lance seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The chairman then moved that a dividend at the rate of six per cent. for the six months ending the 31st December, 1857, be declared, and that it be payable on and after Monday, the 15th February.

The motion having been seconded, was also agreed to unanimously.

A resolution, placing £5,000 to the reserve fund, was also carried unanimously.

The chairman then proposed that the sum of £500 should be appropriated to the provident fund.

Mr. Wright asked how the money was invested?

The chairman explained that it was invested in shares in the bank, and the interest was regularly paid into the fund.

Colonel Spong moved a vote of thanks to the directors, and was sure every one in the room would cordially respond to it. After passing a high eulogium on their conduct, he said the bank was managed better than any other joint-stock bank in London. (Hear.)

Mr. Cox seconded it, and said that though he belonged to thirty institutions, he saw nothing that was more satisfactory than the report and balance-sheet of that bank. If there was honesty in mankind he believed it was centered in the directors of that bank. (Hear.) He conscientiously thought they were honest men, and that was saying a great deal in these times. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

The chairman in reply to a shareholder as to the proceeding of this company with regard to the bonds of the Westminster Improvement Commissioners, said they had some houses in Victoria-street, and they were putting them into a habitable condition so that they might be let as a preparatory step towards realising them. They were doing these repairs on advantageous terms, and as a rental was necessary to effect a realisation of the property they were anxious to dispose of them. The chairman further stated that the reserve fund was not distinctly invested, and that the extraordinary charges being deducted, the actual expenditure had not increased.

The vote was then unanimously agreed to.

A vote of thanks was passed to the auditors, and some discussion arose as to the propriety of giving notice prior to the election of auditors. It was ultimately agreed that an auditor should not be now elected in the room of Mr. Frederick Gaskell (resigned), but that the two remaining auditors should stand till the next half-year's meeting, when due notice would be given for the election of the third.

The manager was then thanked, and the usual compliment to the chairman closed the business.

CARLISLE CITY AND DISTRICT BANK.

THE twenty-first annual general meeting of this company was held on the 9th February, 1858, when the following report of the directors were submitted to the shareholders, and unanimously adopted :—

Report of the directors of the Carlisle City and District Banking Company, to the twenty-first annual general meeting of the shareholders, held on the 9th February, 1858.

The balance-sheets now laid before the meeting show the net business profits of the year amount to £13,478 13*s.* 2*d.*, being at the rate of £23 4*s.* 9*d.* per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital.

A dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., together with a bonus of 5 per cent., having been paid for the half-year ending 30th June last, the directors now recommend the same rate of dividend, with a similar bonus, to be declared for the last half-year ending 31st December, amounting together to 20 per cent. per annum, leaving a sum of £1.917 19*s.* 1*d.* in the auxiliary fund, subject to the deduction of one half-year's income tax; and leaving a completed rest or guarantee fund as before of £19,333 6*s.* 8*d.*, being equal to one-third of the paid-up capital.

Messrs. William Stordy and George Africanus Thompson, ordinary directors, retire from office in accordance with the 8th clause of the deed of settlement, but are eligible for re-election; and the directors have the painful duty of reporting that owing to the lamented death of their esteemed colleague, Mr John Wilson Fletcher, his place at the board has become vacant. They believe, however, it will not be necessary to fill up the vacancy at present; but on this point it is left to the meeting to decide.

Notwithstanding the severe monetary pressure and extreme commercial derangement through which this country has lately passed, your directors are happy to report that this bank has entirely escaped bad debts, and will not, they believe, suffer any loss, with the exception perhaps of a portion of the £800 which it will be observed they wrote off, on the 31st December last, as an apparent deficiency on certain securities held, but which have since risen in value, and may ultimately be fully realised. In this and similar cases they have always adopted the safe course of writing off at once at the annual balance every probable loss or deficiency in the assets of the bank.

It will be seen from the accounts herewith presented, that the doubtful debt of £75, alluded to in last report, has resulted in a loss of £41 12*s.* 1*d.*, and that during the year the auxiliary fund has been credited with £90 1*s.* 5*d.*, for dividends received on bad debts previously written off.

The directors make this report after their usual thorough investigation of the entire affairs of the bank, which they believe to be in every respect sound and prosperous.

The above report was drawn up and completed while the late respected chairman of the directors, Mr. William Stordy, was at the board, and it met his entire approval, he and another director having on the 21st and 22nd ultimo personally examined and attested the accounts on which the report is founded; and this was the last official act he performed. It is now the painful duty of his surviving colleagues to report his death, which took place on the 4th instant, and to express their high sense of his long and zealous services as a director of this bank, and of his claim to be held a grateful remembrance by the shareholders. It will now devolve upon this meeting to elect a director in his stead.

(Signed) GEORGE RELPH, *Chairman.*

Profit and Loss, and Auxiliary Fund.

Dr.

To property and income-tax, &c., paid	£568	4	10
Dividend and bonus to 30th June, 1856	5,800	0	0
Dividend and bonus to 31st December, 1856	5,800	0	0
Bad debt at Cockermouth, less dividends received ...	41	12	1
Written off to meet depreciation in securities	800	0	0
Bonus of 10 per cent. on salaries for 1856	143	0	0
Auxiliary fund for balance	1,917	19	1
	£15,070	16	0

Cr.

By balance of auxiliary fund on 10th February, 1857 ...	£1,486	13	11
Net profits, 30th June, 1857	6,639	7	3
Ditto, 31st December, 1857	6,839	5	11
Dividends received on debts previously written off ...	90	1	5
Fees of transfer received...	15	7	6
	£15,070	16	6
By undivided profits as under—			
Guarantee fund	£19,333	6	8
Auxiliary Fund	1,917	19	1
	£21,251	5	9

Table of Profits, &c., from 2nd March, 1837, to this day.

	Net profits			Dividends paid.			Undivided profits.			Bad debts.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1st seven years ending 31st Dec., 1843 ...	45,790	3	2	30,306	17	6	10,810	3	4	6,172	19	10
2nd „ „ 31st Dec., 1850 ...	52,004	11	3	40,431	5	0	19,347	17	3	336	17	8
3rd „ „ 31st Dec., 1857 ...	67,327	2	2	62,060	0	0	21,251	5	9	445	19	4
	£165,121	16	7	132,798	2	6				6,957	7	10

9th February, 1858.

The report of the auditors, confirming the balance-sheets, was also read and adopted.

A dividend of 5 per cent. was declared for the last half-year, and also a bonus of 5 per cent. (together 20 per cent. per annum), both payable free of income-tax, on the 18th instant.

Mr. George Africanus Thompson was re elected an ordinary director, and Mr. Joseph Hannah was elected an ordinary director, in the room of Mr. William Stordy, deceased.

The following gentlemen were appointed auditors for the ensuing year, viz.:—Mr. John Brown, Mr. Thomas Bate Crowther, and Mr. George Carruthers.

A bonus of 10 per cent. upon their salaries was ordered to be paid to the manager and other officers of the bank for the past year.

Votes of thanks were awarded to the directors, Mr. Davidson, the manager, and the other officers of the bank.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.

y-eighth annual general meeting of the shareholders of this eld at the Three Crowns Hotel, Leicester, on the 10th day of Mr. Bankart in the chair, when the following report was pre- adopted :—

tors, in laying before the proprietors the balance-sheets for the ' June and the 31st day of December, 1857, trust that, consider- ent and severity of the crisis the commercial world has lately ugh (it having been attended with a considerable sacrifice of sadly adding to the labours and anxieties of your directors, and he exercise of much caution and prudence), the result of their will be regarded as satisfactory. At the last annual meeting was made to the new bank then being erected at the Market h Branch. Your directors take this opportunity of stating that g is now completed, and the outlay has been provided for out of

The net profit of the bank for the past year (after providing l and bad debts) amounts to £20,752 13*s.* 11*d.*—in this sum is 308 16*s.* 7*d.* for interest on the guarantee fund. The directors lend for the half-year ending the 30th day of June of £1 8*s.* 6*d.*, me tax; and now recommend that the dividend for the half- g the 31st day of December be £1 8*s.* 6*d.*, per share, also free of , being 10 per cent. on the paid-up capital. After the payment vidends, with the income tax thereon, and the appropriation of on the guarantee fund, as above, a balance of profit amounting 2*s.* 11*d.* will remain, which, with the balance of unappropriated the previous year of £2,651 4*s.* 7*d.*, will make a total of . 6*d.* Out of this amount the directors propose to take £7,500, to the capital, in the proportion of £1 10*s.* to each share, making id-up capital of the bank £30 per share, and to carry forward of £295 17*s.* 6*d.* to the current year.

The Profit and Loss Account will then stand thus :—

l paid to the shareholders for the half-year end-			
e 30th June, 1857	£7,125	0	0
nding the 31st December, 1857	7,125	0	0
tax on the above	549	4	5
on the guarantee fund	808	16	7
account	7,500	0	0
to be carried forward	295	17	6
	£23,403	18	6
it for the year 1857	£20,752	13	11
opriated profit, 1856	2,651	4	7
	£23,403	18	6

And the Guarantee Fund thus :—

nuary, 1857	£26,764	1	5
interest at three per cent.	808	16	7
	£27,572	18	0

The 27th article of the Company's Deed of Settlement recites:—"That two of the directors shall annually retire from office; the vacancies to be filled up at the annual general meeting, provided, nevertheless, that on all occasions any retiring director may be re-elected." It is therefore announced that Mr. Samuel Stephens Bankart and Mr. Samuel Seddon are the retiring directors.

Paid-up capital	...	...	..	...	...	£150,000	0	0
Guarantee fund	...	...	...	...	...	27,572	18	0
						£177,572	18	0

At the close it was resolved, That the report now read be adopted, printed and circulated among the proprietors; That the directors be, and they are hereby authorised to declare and pay a dividend of £1 8*s.* 6*d.* per share free of income tax, for the half-year ending the 31st day of December, in addition to £1 8*s.* 6*d.* per share, paid to the shareholders, for the half-year ending the 30th day of June; also that the sum of £7,500 be taken from the profits, and added by way of bonus to the capital, in the proportion of £1 10*s.* to each share; and that the residue of profit, amounting to £295 17*s.* 6*d.*, be carried forwarded to the current year's account.

Communications.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE BY RAILWAY COMPANIES.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged if you will favour me with your opinion on the following questions in your next month's magazine:—

Can a railway company legally give its acceptances to engine builders, timber merchants, contractors, &c., or should the amounts owing in this way be paid for in cash, or bonds at short dates be given if it is not convenient to pay in cash?

Are these acceptances provided for by the different acts of parliament having reference to the borrowing powers of railways?

If the acceptances of a railway company are legal, how would the holders of them rank, supposing the debenture owners of the railway should find it necessary to take the line into their own hands in order to secure the payment of interest on their bonds?

Yours,

5th February, 1858. AN INQUIRER.

[We can give very imperfect answers only to the foregoing important questions. We think, unless specially authorised by their act, a railway company should not give bills, notes, or bonds; and, if authorised, the holders could sue the company and seize any property which by law the sheriff could take.]

BANK OF ENGLAND PRACTICES.

SIR,—"A Subscriber," whose letter you print in your February number (page 202), is in error in stating that the amount of a cheque on the Bristol (or other) Branch of the Bank of England paid into the branch bank, with a request that the value be paid over in London, is *not* so paid until appli

cation be made at the Bank by the London agent of the country banker by whom the cheque was lodged.

The amount of the cheque is advised by the first post to the Bank, and is at once passed to the credit of the account of the London banker.

A. M. R.

Threadneedle-street, 4th February, 1858.

BANKER PAYING INSUFFICIENTLY STAMPED BILL OR NOTE.

SIR,—Will you be good enough to inform me, in your next number, whether a banker is not justified in refusing payment of a customer's acceptance or promissory note, if drawn upon a stamp of lesser value than is required by law.

And oblige, sir, your obedient servant,

X. Y. Z.

Datchet, 17th February, 1858.

[A banker is not only justified in refusing, but would be liable to a penalty if he knowingly paid an insufficiently stamped acceptance or note. See 55 Geo. III., c. 184, s. 11.]

Notes of the Month.

MR. BATES AT LIBERTY.—At the time of the trial of Paul, Strahan and Company, it was considered that the conviction of Mr. Bates was on very slight evidence. The Crown, it seems, has had its misgivings, for Mr. Bates has been set at liberty.

A RICH HARVEST OF FEES.—It is reported that the expense of prosecuting the directors of the Royal British Bank, the whole of which will fall entirely upon the country, will considerably exceed £20,000. Sir F. Thesiger, it is said, gets 1,000 guineas with his brief, and refreshers of 100 guineas each day. The other counsel for the Crown are treated with corresponding liberality. Sir F. Kelly, the leading counsel for the Hon. Mr. Stapleton, had 500 guineas with his brief, and refreshers of 50 guineas a-day; his two juniors had their briefs marked with 250 and 100 guineas respectively, and refreshers in proportion.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—Within the last few days, the negotiation for the sale of those notorious Welsh mines, upon which the Royal British Bank lavished £84,000, has been concluded. The assignees believe that they have made a very good bargain for the creditors in getting rid of them for £6,000. Not only was the working of the mines entailing a heavy loss upon the estate, but a frightful amount of claims was being brought against the assignees on the score of dilapidations, breaches of covenant, and other things. By one clause in the mortgage of the bank it was stipulated that in the event of bankruptcy the owner should take possession. This privilege was, however, waived; and since the suspension of the bank the works have been carried on by the assignees. Thus ends the history of the British Bank and the Welsh mines; property upon which £84,000 has been advanced or expended is disposed of for £6,000! The purchase-money of this property, together with some funds already in hand, is sufficient to pay another dividend of 2*s.* in the pound. There is nothing but the delays of the law to prevent this dividend being immediately paid. With respect to the long-talked-of composition of 6*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, to be paid by the shareholders, a sum of £70,000 has been promised by the shareholders, the

payment of which may be relied upon. A further sum of £20,00 to consist of little more than "promises" to pay. The assignees st tenacity to the hope that the dividends will ultimately amount t pound.

Bank of England Dividends, &c.—The amount of all Exchequ other government securities purchased by the Company of the Bank or on which any sums were advanced for the public service in th was £1,059,351 in the quarter ending the 31st of March, and £99 quarter ending the 30th September. On the 5th January, 185 of dividends due and not demanded, amounting to £112,958 rem hands of the Bank. The gross amount of dividends due and not d the four quarters of the year was respectively, £1,036,260, £966,01 and £959,667.

The Bank of Egypt.—The directors of the Bank of Egypt their report, preparatory to the meeting on the 5th of March. T for the six months ending the 31st December exhibit a net profit showing a progressive increase in business operations. After pr dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, free of incom apportioning £2,000 to preliminary expenses, and £5,000 for of a reserve, a balance of £1,819 remains to be carried forward. that during the past half-year, which has embraced a period of commercial distress, the bank has been enabled to reap the be high rate of interest ruling in Alexandria without the drawback o debts. The opening of the Cairo branch, which had been postpo about being carried out.

The Import and Export of Gold and Silver.—It appears fro mentary return giving an account of the computed real value of go bullion and specie imported and exported during the month of J that the total importations amounted to £4,182,290, of which £3,57 gold, and £603,053 in silver. The value of the exports was £985,5 being £226,822, and the silver £758,772.

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

Jan. 27.—Suspension announced of Messrs. James Shaw and cloth manufacturers, of Huddersfield, with liabilities amounting to £

28.—The directors of the Bank of England reduced their rate of 4 per cent.

Feb. 1.—The Bank of Holland reduced its rate of discount from cent.

1.—Failure of M. James Odier, banker, of Paris, with liabiliti £200,000.

1.—Failure and suicide announced of M. Charles Hostmann, a banker.

4.—The Bank of England directors reduced their rate of discou cent.

6.—The directors of the Bank of France reduced the rate of di per cent.

6.—Suspension of Messrs. William Gilmour and Co., of Glasg woollen trade.

10.—Intelligence received of the bombardment and capture of Ca 28th and 29th December.

10.—Death of Mr. John Horsley Palmer, late the senior director of England, and formerly M.P. for the city.

merchants, Baltimore, U.S.
The rate of discount at Hamburg reduced to 1½ per cent.
The Bank of France rate of discount reduced to 4 per cent.
Ministers defeated in the House of Commons by a majority of 19, on dment proposed by Mr. Milner Gibson, to the "Conspiracy to Murder"

Ministers tendered their resignations to the Queen, which were accepted, Earl of Derby commanded to form a new administration.
Suspension of Mr. Edward Gwyer, of Bristol, in the African trade, with liabilities.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

lowing are the suspensions during the past month, but they do not my firms of importance, with the exception of the two foreign banking

-Messrs. James Shaw and Co., Huddersfield, woollen manufacturers.
-Mr. James Odier, Paris, banker.
M. Chas. Hartmann, Hanover, banker.
Messrs. Wm. Gilmour and Co., Glasgow, woollen trade.
Messrs. Oak and Snow, Blandford, bankers.
Messrs. T. Wilson and Co., Baltimore (U. S.), produce merchants.
Mr. Edwd. Gwyer, Bristol, African trade.

Reviews.

h *of the History of the Currency*. By JAMES MACLAREN. Groom-ge and Sons, Paternoster-row, and Thomas Bumpus, 6, Holborn-s.

lume makes its appearance at a very opportune time, and will no e extensively read, as, not only in addition to a sketch of the of the Currency, it furnishes a brief review of the opinions of the inent writers on the subject. The author has evidently taken great

of one who has given such close attention to the subject on
treats, and who brings such powerful and interesting facts to su
arguments. In this particular the little volume affords mucl
useful for consultation, while the predictions relating to the rec
have been fulfilled in a remarkable manner.

The London Joint-stock Banks; with some remarks on Limited (Third Edition). By JAMES KNIGHT. Messrs. Pelham, R and Co., Cornhill.

THE whole of the statistics connected with this subject are here in a very lucid manner, and the analysis of the rise and progres establishments, will prove extremely interesting to all interest consideration of the devolopment of the joint-stock system. I edition the author has revised the whole of the tables, and ad further interesting details.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MON FEBRUARY, 1858.

The month of February will have proved remarkable for the the administration and the further gradual retrogression in the money. The Bank of England has now brought its rate of discount 3 per cent., and that of the Bank of France stands at 4 per cent. crease in the abundance of money, which is now flowing in from all promises to be permanent, the supplies from America continuing i At the same time Australia is sending her fair proportion, althoug it may be expected that the prevalence of easterly winds will retard arrivals. Trade remains in a depressed condition, and th little immediate probability of a revival, the returns from the Board showing a proportionate decrease in exports arising from the late of fictitious credit. On the continent the rate for money is ra clining, and at Hamburgh it has descended to 1½ per cent, Th things will not however long continue whenever a steady re business commences.

The range in Consols this month has been about 2¾ per cent. rise nearly 1¾ to 2 per cent. The easiness of money, with the reduction in the rate of discount by the Banks of England and Fra tended to this favourable result. Although some speculative bu been transacted, the *bonâ fide* investments of the banking inte produced the greatest improvement; and nearly the full advance supported. The change in the administration through the vot Conspiracy to Murder Bill has occasioned some fluctuation, but decline experienced has since been recovered. Exchequer bills ha between 40*s.* and 20*s.* premium, the reaction having set in just p the reduction of the rate of interest on the March issues from 2½ per diem.

There has been a general rise in foreign securities. Great a business has prevailed; and the run has been principally on South descriptions. The settlement of the Buenos Ayres debt has caus advance in the value of that stock, additional purchases having b

the advantages of the conversion. Peruvian, Russian, and ave been largely dealt in, and the advance noticeable continues y maintained.

ray shares there has been an advance of from 4 to 6 per cent.; ithstanding sales for realisation, the upward tendency is still Indians have been especially dealt in; the shares of the old- l lines indicating much firmness. The single exception to activity lway department has been found, in connexion with shares in the ilways. A singular paucity of business has existed in this respect, led state of affairs in France producing excessive caution.

t amount of activity has existed in the shares of the joint-stock ugh quotations are supported at a full average. The advance in ough not important, exhibits a more favourable feeling towards stments.

owing are the fluctuations in the English and Foreign Stocks, and hares, during the month just concluded :—

	Price on Jan. 29.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Feb. 25th.
ENGLISH FUNDS.				
... ...	95-95¼	97⅜	95	97-97⅛
bills	20*s.* to 24*s.* pm.	40*s.* pm.	20*s.* p.m.	30*s.* pm.
FOREIGN STOCKS.				
... ...	102	104	102	103
tes	97½	109 x.d.	80x.d.	81x.d.
... ...	104	106½	104	105
per cent.	65	66	65	65½
... ...	20½	21⅛	20	20⅛
4½ per cent.	78½	84	78½	82
... ...	110½	112½	110½	112
... ...	42	45½	42	44½
per cent.	98⅜	103½	98½	101½
per cent.	105	105½	103½	104½
AILWAY SHARES.				
... ...	110½	111	106	108
... ...	92½	97½	91½	96
unties	61½	64½	59⅜	63
hern	105½	108	104½	107½
tern	60⅛	63⅛	58⅜	61⅛
and Yorkshire... ...	94	97	92⅜	95½
d North Western ...	101	102⅜	100	101½
... ...	94⅜	100⅜	94	101½
fordshire	14½	14⅜	14	14½
tern	75⅜	77½	73⅜	74½
tern	98⅞	100½	97	98
castle, and Berwick ...	97½	99½	96⅜	98
North Midland	84¼	85	82	83
n...	109	113½	108	110½
f France	—	39⅛	37⅝	38⅛

THE GRAIN TRADE.

e month of February the grain markets were generally steady t to demand, and to which the supplies were fully equal. The

weather continued most favourable for field operations, and the sa offered being of an improved character, prices had a gradual down tendency. At the latest moment, however, there was a slight reaction, holders were asking, for all descriptions, higher prices than could be obt in the earlier part of the month.

The *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been :—

Week ending 1858.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresp Six W Last
Jan. 23	113,521 ...	48 9 ...	48 3 ...	1 0 ...	
„ 30	92,541 ...	47 6 ...	48 0 ...	1 0 ...	
Feb. 6	103,379 ...	46 9 ...	47 10 ...	1 0 ...	
„ 13	91,399 ...	45 8 ...	47 7 ...	1 0 ...	

The importations since the harvest of 1857 have been :—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	T Q
Twenty-six weeks ended 13th Jan. ...	2,071,895	2,003,288	4,07
Four weeks ended 10th Feb. ...	275,595	202,133	47
	2,347,499	2,205,421	4,55
And the *weekly averages* have been :—			
Twenty-six weeks ended 13th Jan. ...	79,000	77,000	15
Four weeks ended 10th Feb. ...	69,000	50,000	11
Less	10,000	27,000	3

THE STATE OF TRADE.

Business in the manufacturing districts has not increased, but there more healthy feeling, and in some localities buyers show a greater dispo to operate. It is, however, better that transactions should be restricted supported by a system of credit such as has lately existed, and whic brought about much of the distress and disaster recently witnessed.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Some letters and reviews still stand over, but it is hoped space will be found for next month. Correspondents will please remember that communications, unless urgent, should be forwarded by the 20th of the month, directed to the Editor *Bankers' Magazine*, No. 8, Birchin Lane, Cornhill.

A Subscriber since 1844.—1. The drawer is released by the delay. 2. We think bank had, at least, the day after receiving the note to transmit it, and therefore the customer is liable. 3. The last h lder is the last person who kept the note than the day after receiving it, without circulating or presenting it. 4. There perfect work on the law of banking; Grant's work is the latest, but it does not brace the entire subject. *Shaw on Cheques* and *Byles on Bills* are works much u bankers.

Original Subscriber.—The works referred to are numerous; but a recent *Sketch of the History of the Currency*, published by Messrs. Groombridge & will be found useful for reference.

S.T.V.—The appointment has been filled up. It is considered valuable, but the are exceedingly onerous.

Theta.—Consideration shall be given to the question.

A Reader. — *Tate's Modern Cambist*, published by Mr. Effingham Wilson, great authority, and one which may be advantageously consulted.

HE BANKERS' MAGAZINE;

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

APRIL, 1858.

THE £8,000,000 EAST INDIA LOAN.

IDERING the magnitude of the demand which the military ations consequent upon the mutiny have made, and for some to come must continue to make, upon the fiscal resources of , and the recurrence of adverse balances in the annual budget veral years past, the application to Parliament by the East Company for authority to raise an additional loan, can- ossibly have taken any one by surprise. Those who are acquainted with the financial state and prospects of British were prepared, many of them, to expect such an operation, had the internal tranquility of the country remained un- rbed. With heavy charges resulting from foreign wars ecent annexations, which cannot for many years be made e debtor and creditor account to show a favourable ce, with a drain of a million and three-quarters per annum, und numbers, expended upon public works, and with a ity of a million a-year under the head of guarantees to ay companies, superadded to the ordinary yearly charges overnment, and for interest upon stock and previous loans, evenue being at the same time, if not absolutely in a state rogradation, certainly not advancing, and with the inevitable ency resulting from such a monetary condition the public was prepared for an Indian loan, even had not the lament- events which have marked the history of our Indian re during the past ten months taken place. But that the ed world had confidence in the reproductive powers of n resources is amply attested by the value which all Indian ities nevertheless maintained. The strong public feeling st the further extension of our position in upper India, and tter experience of the Affghan campaign, afforded sufficient

security against wars of aggression in that quarter. The countries which had already been annexed were, with the exception of Oude, becoming, or had become, reconciled to our rule and amongst the most loyal of our dependencies. The public works, though entailing a heavy outlay at present, were certain to be amply remunerative in the end; and the railways for which the Company had rendered themselves liable in the shape of guarantees, were fast progressing towards completion, and those which were already opened proved that from the moment they were ready to receive traffic the guarantee in effect ceased—the net earnings in every case exceeding the rate of interest guaranteed. All these were circumstances which pointed to the gradual development of Indian capabilities, and the speedy restoration of a healthy fiscal condition. The public mind was therefore predisposed to receive favourably any proposition which might be made for enabling the Government of India to carry on the important works in which it was engaged. But the aspect of affairs was widely altered when the mutiny broke out. A deficiency of £2,000,000 a-year as the normal state of affairs was not one that was likely to inspire equal confidence when money was required—not to carry on internal improvements which, earlier or later, must be remunerative, and to erect national defences which would add to the security of our possessions, but for enabling the Government to maintain its own against an armed insurrection in which the whole native army of an entire Presidency, numbering upwards of 100,000 men, fully equipped and disciplined, and upon whose fidelity we had relied, were suddenly found arrayed in open and organized hostility against those in whose service they were, and supported by the sympathies, the hopes and the prejudices of a large proportion of the native population. The exigencies of such a crisis, the necessity of incurring at once and on the instant an enormous expenditure in conveying European troops over thousands of miles of land and water, and of transporting men and material from distant parts of the world, and concentrating them upon the scene of action, to win back an empire all but lost, while it added sensibly to the monetary difficulties of the East India Company, by weakening public confidence, diminished their powers of meeting them. The necessity of a loan which had before been only possible, now became a matter of certainty, and to an enormously enhanced extent, while the disposition of the public to subscribe to it was diminished in proportion. Six months ago, while the mutiny was yet raging in full force, with Delhi and most of the forts and stratagetic points of the upper provinces in their possession

Lucknow unrelieved, and Nana Sahib with 50,000 men threatening Havelock's reduced column at Cawnpore, the attempt to raise money upon the credit of the East India Company, unguaranteed by the Imperial Government, would have been futile. At that time no one could form an estimate of whether the military operations would entail upon the Indian Government an expenditure of ten or a hundred millions; and though few doubted of the ultimate success of British arms against the Sepoys and their coadjutors, it was doubtful whether that success would be a work of years or of only a few months. It is clear, then, that at that period no reasonable rate of interest would have enabled the East India Company to place their loan except at such a discount as must have remained a serious and permanent addition to their annual expenditure. The satisfactory progress of the war and the prospect of its speedy termination at, under all circumstances considered, a much less cost than we had any right to calculate upon, when the magnitude of the danger first presented itself to our view, have again changed the position of affairs, and made that which would at the latter end of 1857 have been an hazardous experiment, a perfectly practicable and safe course.

The bill which was introduced by Lord Palmerston's government, and taken up subsequently by that of Lord Derby, and which on the 22nd ultimo received the Royal assent, authorises the East India Company to raise by bonds and debentures the sum of £8,000,000 for present purposes, and empowers the Company at a future period to raise other sums for paying off such bonds and debentures as they fall due. In the course of the discussions which marked the progress of this measure through the two houses of Parliament, the explanations that were elicited in regard to the extent of the deficiency in the present year, and the prospect for the future, were such as will no doubt facilitate the raising of the loan. It appears that the total debt of India, including the £6,000,000 stock, but which is guaranteed to be paid off at 200 per cent., and therefore stands as £12,000,000, the £50,483,000 which is the sum total of the debt contracted in India and payable by the Presidencies, and the present bond debt, which is about £6,000,000, amounts in the aggregate to £68,000,000; against which there is a guarantee fund of £17,000,000 accumulating to pay off the stock, and for which four and a-half millions is already in hand. On account of this £68,000,000 of debt the annual charge is £2,829,000 against a gross annual revenue of £29,000,000, or a net revenue of £23,000,000—about one-eighth. The accumulated deficiency in the year 1857 of income as compared

with expenditure was upwards of £7,000,000; but it w explained by Lord Ellenborough that the balances in t Indian exchequer have decreased since the deficit began accrue by £3,300,000, thus reducing the actual increase indebtedness from this source to £3,700,000 in round numb The immediate liabilities—that is, the debt due by the Comp over and above the authorised loans— is stated by the Presid of the Board of Control at £9,877,000 in the gross. To m which, they have cash assets and securities readily available the extent of £2,819,000, and their premises in Leadenh street and elsewhere, barracks, unshipped stores, and advan on account of steam ships are stated (as it would seem at a v low valuation) at £951,000, leaving an adverse balance something over £6,000,000, including the demand of Imperial Government for the expenses of the war up to the 1 January. But beyond that there is the estimated extraordin expenditure of the coming year to be provided for, amount to £5,670,000, to meet which the income available is e estimated at £1,000,000, and there are borrowing powers un hausted for raising money in India amounting to anot £1,000,000.

That further borrowing powers were called for, if In was to continue to bear its own charges, could not, in face of such a balance-sheet be disputed; the only ques was whether anything less than the security of the Imp Government would be accepted. The satisfactory progre the war, and the concentration of the rebels into one spot, wh their final subjugation can only be a question of a few we sooner or later, having dispelled all doubts as to the sufficienc India for her own debts, whether under the Company's gov ment or that of a minister and council appointed by the Cr and acting in direct responsibility to the Crown and to Pa ment, it is to be regretted that the original application authority to raise ten millions was not conceded.

The eight millions to which the loan is now limited, the more than enough for present purposes, may possibly fall s of the requirements of the Indian government in the even any difficulty arising in the collection of the revenue; having regard to the devastation which over a large district been committed, and the destruction of property whic inseparable from the presence of hostile armies, that is a con gency which ought to have been taken into the account.

Upon the question of future revenue generally, the new sident of the Board of Control—who has the advantage ove predecessors of being personally acquainted with India—s that a considerable increase may be expected to arise :

the opium tax, and that even from the ordinary sources of land and salt he does not anticipate any material falling off. He speaks confidently also of the near advent of that time when the expenditure which has been incurred for public works will begin to be reproductive, and the annual deficiency resulting from that cause be converted into an annual surplus. He also promises economy, and suggests, notwithstanding the necessity for a considerable addition to the permanent force of European troops maintained in the three presidencies, a decrease in the aggregate of the governmental charges. With these improved prospects the East India Company will not be very likely to experience any very great difficulty in placing a loan bearing 4 per cent. interest in the present state of the money market.

Since the preceding observations were penned it has transpired that the loan will be for £5,000,000, on the security of debentures for a period of five years, with interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly by coupons attached, leaving the remaining £3,000,000 to be subsequently raised. The directors of the East India Company have consequently given notice that tenders will be received on or before the 1st proximo for this sum, but every application (stating the price that will be offered for every £100) must be for sums of not less than £5,000.

Calculations have been entered into, showing that the price of 98¼ or 99 will be about the rate tendered, and the expectation is that the entire amount will immediately be taken up. There is an abundance of capital lying idle in the hands of large monied establishments, the directors of which will be only too glad to avail themselves of such a security, with a fair rate of interest, for the period named. It is considered that the distribution of the instalments has been made in a judicious manner, and from the circumstance that the final payment is fixed for the 10th of September, it is presumed that no attempt will be exercised (unless the tenders sent in shall exceed all expectation) to negotiate the remaining £3,000,000 before some months have elapsed.

The following is the official notice issued on the 24th of March:—

EAST INDIA HOUSE,
24th March, 1858.

The court of directors of the East India Company do hereby give notice that they will be prepared, on or before twelve o'clock on the 1st day of April proximo, to receive tenders for a loan not exceeding Five millions sterling for five years, on security of debentures to be issued under the provisions of the Act 21 Vic. cap. 3, such debentures to be of the respective amounts of £1,000 and £500, and to bear interest at the rate of

four per cent. per annum, payable by coupons attached, half-yearly, at the treasury of the East India Company in London, on the 8th day of April, and the 8th day of October, in each year. The tenders to be for sums of not less than £5,000, and are to state how much will be given for every £100 of the said loan:

20	per cent. to be paid to the company on the		8th	day of April
15	do.	do.	10th	„ May
15	do.	do.	10th	„ June
20	do.	do.	9th	„ July
15	do.	do.	10th	„ August
And the balance		do.	10th	„ September

from which dates the interest of four per cent. per annum upon the respective instalments will be calculated; but parties, who so desire, may pay up in full, and will be allowed a discount at the rate of three per cent. per annum upon the anticipated payments. In cases of equality of tenders beyond the amount required, they will be subject to a *pro rata* diminution. Scrip receipts will be given to the parties entitled; to be delivered up in exchange for the debentures when prepared. The tenders are to be delivered in, sealed, at the secretary's office in this house, and to specify the proportions of each denomination of debentures required by the subscriber. No tender will be received after twelve o'clock on the said 1st day of April, nor unless upon a printed form, which may be obtained at the accounts' branch of the secretary's office in this house.

J. D. Dickinson, Secretary.

THE TRADE IN SILVER TO THE EAST.

Will coin continue to be returned from the East? The question is one of marked significance in the present condition of the money market. Attention should be devoted to the bearings of the subject, not only as regards the influence it must have upon the rate of interest, but upon trade at large, particularly upon prices of commodities from that part of the world. The recent import from China which has just taken place is an epoch in financial affairs, seeing that the uniform tendency for years past has been for bullion to be exported thence, and that since the gold discoveries the annual amounts have been constantly increasing. Last year the total reached £17,310,090, which was three times the value exported in 1854, and more than five times the amount sent in 1852. Throughout nearly the whole of this period there has been an advancing rate of interest in England, and it can scarcely be necessary to state that to justify such an enormous drain of bullion, the "balance of trade," so called, must have been adverse to this country, and exchanges proportionately unfavourable. The relation between the value of money in the East and in London must, indeed, at all times, be tolerably well defined; and so intimate is the connection between the various parts of this great empire, that it would be next to impossible for one section to be in adversity or prosperity without making that condition felt at the centre of commercial operations, and preserving that harmony which so admirably distinguishes great financial under-

here is, therefore, no doubt, when the silk crop failed in l our supplies had to come from China, at a greatly increased it the "Celestials" favouring merchants with any augmented British manufactures, the only way of settling accounts ie. So, too, while there was an increasing quantity of tea r our well-employed population, money was the general ment. On both articles, then, the requirements have been large, occasioning a rise in exchange of a very natural gh whether the increase shown in the subjoined table was mate is open to doubt, and examination may be well its causes :—

	Shanghae, per dollar.	Canton, per dollar.	Calcutta, per rupee.	Bombay, per rupee.
.....	6/9	4/8	2/2¼ to ⅜	2/ to 2/1
.....	6/7½	4/7⅜ to 4/8	2/2¼	2/1 13-16
.....	6/7½ to 6/8	4/10	2/ to 2/0½	2/1⅜
.....	7/3 to 7/5	4/11	2/1⅜ to 2/2	2/1 11-16
.....	7/3	4/11	2/1½ to ⅜	2/1 13-16
.....	7/2½	4/11½	2/2¼	2/2¼
.....	6/11 to 7/	4/11½	2/2 to 2/2⅛	2/1⅜
.....	6/7½	4/9½	2/2¼	2/1⅜
.....	6/10	4/10½	2/3¼ to ½	2/1⅜
.....	6/8½	4/11	2/2½	2/1⅜
.....	6/7½	4/10½	2/2¼	2/2¼
.....	6/5½ to 6/6½	4/10½	2/2	2/1⅜

these figures that the solution of the immense exports of year really rests. Now, was that increase in the dollar or wholly justified? To determine that point we must care- the trade to and from the East during the last few years. ports of British manufactures must be compared with the Chinese and Indian produce; and although it may be the statistics are not of themselves sufficient to account for able increase in exchange, showing not much beyond the rtions between exports and imports, the latter greatly pre-, there were special causes operating as regards certain ich afford the correct index to the great derangement, as it ed, in finance. Tea and silk were of course, the articles erned. The first-named shows the anomalous feature of a rease, there being an import of 64,494,297 lbs. in 1857, 00,414 lbs. in 1856. In silk, adding the raw and thrown, together the imports from China and the East Indies, there ,024 lbs. in 1856, and 11,605,441 in 1857. In both of e, however, as well as with cotton, hides, spices, and other ported from the East, prices as well as quantities must be ccount when considering the bullion shipments. Had the ows in the figures now quoted simply have occurred, and

prices gone lower, or even remained stationary, there would have been no such balances due to the East; but the fact is, that ever since the gold discoveries prices in this country, and, indeed, throughout the world, were continually advancing until the recent commercial crisis occurred. Consequently, the balances were magnified beyond all conception, arguing upon merely ordinary grounds, and great delusion existed in the minds of men of business upon this point, and caused much of the subsequent mischief.

Among the causes and consequences of the late panic it is surprising how little careful inquiry has yet been given to the relation of prices generally with the collapse in all the produce markets, and the absence of all confidence in commercial circles, as regards the true value of imported commodities. Yet nothing could be more apposite to the present time, for there can be little doubt that with an abundant credit the importing merchants, particularly some of those connected with the East, availed themselves of every facility for overtrading, speculating upon a a rising market, manufacturing a loose credit, and engaging in produce and bullion operations upon the belief in constant improvement in prices, as well as that the "game of hazard" could be indefinitely prolonged. It can only be upon these grounds that stocks have now accumulated to such an extent as to glut the markets, and to cause the constant stagnation or downward tendency which for months past has been the sole characteristic of Mincing-lane. That such features are sound and legitimate enough there can be no question. Merchants have no right, especially when trading upon credit, to "hold over;" their duty is to be clearing off goods for new arrivals, and to be simply anxious to realise the true market value, which, at one time high and another low, will in the course of months or years bring a correct average of value. Advances, whether on goods or bills, for purely speculative purposes, cannot be continued for any long period without recoiling on those engaged in the practice; and many instructive lessons could be read from recent affairs, particularly as regards our Eastern trade, men would wisely review the experience now gained. The undue expansion of trade which has occurred is receiving its best check from the absence of demand; but how, with accumulating stocks and advancing prices, merchants and financiers could give encouragement to such a trade as is now evident was carried on, would surpass belief, were not that it has been found by experience that each age has its victims and that seven or ten years are required to complete the true cycle of trading folly!

Before passing from this branch of the subject, which might, however, receive profitable enlargement, it may be remarked that while the blind rushing into trade has had some of its legitimate results, which more have yet to be realised, it could after all only affect a certain portion of the financial movements we are now discussing. If it stimulated prices, and caused the temporary enrichment of a few hungry speculators at the expense of the consumer, it could not permanently alter the laws of trade which are almost as immutable as the laws of nature

A few millions of coin in excess of the real wants of commerce may have been sent to the East, but, under any circumstances, bullion must have been exported. The natives of those countries do not take our manufactures in the same proportion as we import their commodities. They can better do without what appear to us as necessities than we can do without their superfluous luxuries; and such are the infinite resources of those regions, that many articles of great value in Europe can always be produced at the lowest possible cost, and in a manner to defy all ordinary competition. Seeing, then, that this has now become an incontrovertible point, it may be concluded that the balances must always be against this country; and that coin must be, in larger or smaller quantities, sent to the East in settlement of such balances, under existing circumstances, is also equally clear. We come next to the inquiry, has bullion lately been sent in any superabundant quantity? and in the fact that some is now returning, we find the best answer to that question. This return, there can be no doubt, is more prudent than the shipment of produce under the present condition of the import market, and is of course consequent upon that condition becoming known in China concurrently with the news of the recent crisis. There will, however, soon be an adjustment of accounts, which will render any great return of bullion unnecessary, for, while shipments of produce have been taking place in the East, there have been in England, during the last three or four months, no large consignments of silver; and already, perhaps, the corrective may have been supplied. No resumption upon any great scale can at present be expected in the shipments of bullion, but with stocks in the produce market easing off, confidence reviving in trade, and the continuance of moderate rates of interest, there is every reason to believe that shipments will ere long be again commenced. It is to be hoped that they will be cautiously conducted, not on wild and extravagant theories, nor based on a constant anticipation of proceeds or high profits, but in accordance with known facts and the true requirements of a healthy commerce. While expressing these opinions on the well ascertained principles of trade, it may be added that with the re-establishment of British authority in India and the resumption of regular commerce with China, which must be continually expanding as enlarged intercourse is allowed and improved internal communication extends in that large and interesting empire, we have abundant reasons for anticipating a large and prosperous business, the results of which, while they cannot fail to be generally beneficial, will produce new combinations in monetary circles, and furnish new subjects of inquiry for the statistician and the statesman.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK SENTENCE.

After thirteen days of the severest mental exercise, the trial of the Royal British Bank conspirators has terminated in a verdict of guilty against all the defendants. On many accounts this trial deserves to be remembered, not only for the length of its duration, which is by no means unprecedented, but for the rank and station of the accused, and the insight which it has given us into the manner of concocting bubble companies and keeping them afloat. Next to the defendants, those who have least reason to be satisfied with the result, are the jury, for whom the remuneration of one guinea per diem, allowed by law, is as poor and inadequate as their patience and attention were exemplary and meritorious. The lenity of the sentence is somewhat remarkable. Considering that the prosecution was the first of the kind which had been instituted, the Lord Chief Justice abated something of that sternness which we might have expected from so pertinacious an upholder of public morals. Messrs. Brown, Esdaile, and Cameron, were condemned to a year's imprisonment as misdemeanants of the first class. To Messrs. Kennedy, Owen, and Macleod, whom the jury recommended to the mercy of the Court, were awarded the terms of nine, six, and three months' imprisonment respectively. Mr. Cochrane, with that prudence which is the better part of valour, had already quitted the kingdom, and was not brought up for judgment. Mr. Stapleton, of whose innocence Lord Campbell in his summing up expressed a firm conviction, was discharged on payment of a fine of one shilling to the Queen. For this merciful forbearance towards Mr. Stapleton no fault can justly be found with his lordship. It was his undoubted duty to mete out punishment to the culprits according to his own notion of their deserts. But it certainly does seem a farce that in cases of this sort the law should have left the penalty so entirely in the discretion of the judge, that he could practically stultify the verdict of twelve British merchants, all of whom, as he acknowledged, were better acquainted than himself with the subject upon which they pronounced an opinion so deliberately and carefully weighed. So far as Mr. Stapleton is personally concerned, we can only rejoice that the judge before whom he stood should have been able to speak so highly of his character.

On another point Lord Campbell's remarks are of more importance. In passing sentence, his lordship declared that a laxity had been introduced into commercial dealings, not from a defect in the law, but from the law not having been put in force, and appeared to think that its power had now been sufficiently vindicated. But is that quite true? The defendants were charged with a conspiracy to deceive and defraud the shareholders and the public, by representing the bank to be in a flourishing condition, when, in fact, they knew it to be insolvent. That charge might have been proved even if the insolvency had been produced by misfortune only, and it might have failed, in spite of the most damning evidence of recklessness

and dishonesty on the part of the accused. Let us look a little deeper into the case. What was the motive which impelled these directors, managers, and governors of the Royal British Bank into that lamentable and disastrous course which, if it has brought such utter ruin and misery upon hundreds more innocent than themselves, has no less destroyed them, and made their very names a scandal to the good and a mockery to the thoughtless and ill-disposed? The object of those directors who were connected with the bank from its commencement was a very simple one, and quite orthodox, according to the strictest code of commercial morality. They designed to realise a fortune by a commercial speculation, which they hoped, and which, in the first instance, they no doubt sincerely believed, would succeed. But their thirst for pelf was too eager for their prudence. Hence, from the very outset of their career, they abandoned the legitimate business of banking and embarked in wild adventures, such as the Welsh mines, which, as they might have turned out profitable, would, if they had been undertaken by a daring man upon his own resources, have been more properly a theme for admiration than for censure. But, inasmuch as capital, held in trust for others, was wantonly risked in speculations not contemplated by the deed of constitution of the bank, or, in other words, by the agreement between the subscribers and the customers on the one side and the trustees on the other, that conduct which in a private person might have been deemed a laudable boldness became in the directors the height of criminal folly, and would have been equally so had their undertakings been blessed with the most splendid success. Some of these gentlemen, however, added to their plan of carving out a fortune by the bank, the nefarious purpose of plundering the bank itself for their own personal profit, and all of them, even those who joined the concern at a later period, consented to swamp their honour and integrity in a desperate attempt to retrieve the hopeless embarrassment of their affairs. In this respect the last comers were no better than the first. For we must draw a distinction between moral guilt and legal guilt, by which we mean the guilt that ought to be checked by punishment. Where a man is led gradually on to transgress the narrow line which marks the boundary between rashness and fraud, as the temptation to err is stronger, so is the moral guilt less; and when the sufferers are few, people are too apt to look upon offenders of this kind with lenient eyes. They speak of them as guilty only of a venial indiscretion; and we could point to many cases in which the embezzlement of money, with the presumed intention of replacing it at a future period, has been hushed up, and treated by the losers as an affair of extenuating circumstances, and deserving of commiseration, rather than to be visited with the severity of the law. But the degree of guilt ought to be measured by its effect upon society at large; and if the consequences of a crime are fraught with public mischief, then, in proportion to the readiness with which men yield to the temptation, so much the more dangerous does the crime become. We cannot, however, imagine that the dread of an information or indictment for

conspiracy will do much towards restraining the malpractices of Cameron, a Mullins, or a Humphrey Brown. The fear is too remot and the chances of escape too numerous. Hence we regard the bill f the better punishment of fraudulent trustees, bankers, &c., introduc by Sir Richard Bethell during the last session, and passed amid the acclamations of Parliament, as the best act of the late Attorne General's life, for it fixes upon each individual a responsibility for a false statements in which he may have concurred, and likewise brin directly to the mind of each the retribution which will follow his m conduct.

At the same time, this trial will hereafter be found to have confer an inestimable benefit upon those branches of trade which are carri on by associations. Some persons are already complaining of t expenses of the trial, and maintain that, owing to the mildness of t punishment, it has been of no use whatever. This is a great mistal In the first place, the exposure, the loss of reputation, the disgrace, t contempt of their fellow-citizens, operate with far more intensity up educated men than any sentence which a judge can deliver. But are prepared to go much further, and to assert that however deplorab the misery which has fallen upon the actual sufferers, yet, from t failure of the Royal British Bank, society has derived an immen advantage. By the publicity which has attended the proceedin before the Court of Bankruptcy and in the Guildhall, both shareholde and depositors have been taught to read a bitter but most use lesson. It is easy to say that of necessity the mercantile classes a oftentimes the victims of misplaced confidence; but the answer is th they will not for the future so blindly bestow their trust. Manifest if the auditors, appointed by the shareholders, had not been shamefu remiss and careless in the performance of their duties, much afflicti would have been spared. Yet had the directors been convinced th the auditors would always act with promptitude and unswerving fir ness, and hence that their first false steps would have been divulg they would have been arrested on the brink of the descent, and wou assuredly have saved both themselves and the bank. Indeed, th reflections are so obvious, and tell with so much force, that they ha almost raised a clamour for an official auditor. For ourselves, a interference with the conduct of trade that is not absolutely indispe able, we should regard with suspicion. The shareholders, and t public too, hold the remedy in their own hands. The former can, they please, take a bond for the punctual discharge of their duties fr any auditors whom they appoint, and the latter may decline to d with any company, unless this or some other equally effectual provisi is made imperative. The trading world must discuss, ponder upo and decide these questions for itself, but to aid their counsels, we m remind them that by the late statute no banking company can a longer become bankrupt, but that, if it fail, its affairs must be wou up in the mysterious darkness of the great court that is watched ov by the Great Seal.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

THE TRIAL OF THE DIRECTORS.

In the last number of the *Bankers' Magazine*, we gave a brief synopsis of the trial of the directors of the Royal British Bank, before Lord Campbell, in the Court of Queen's Bench. At that time the trial had not been brought to a termination; and it was not till Saturday, the 27th February, that the learned judge, after the proceedings had occupied thirteen days, summed up the evidence.

His Lordship commenced by stating that the great attention paid by the jury to the examination of the witnesses had made them completely masters of the case, and consequently it would be unnecessary for him to read over his notes of the voluminous evidence; he should therefore confine himself to the mere exposition of the law as applicable to the case, and call their attention to those points which more particularly affected the several defendants; and, having done so in a very clear and perspicuous manner, concluded by saying the bank commenced with a small capital, less than £50,000, and it soon got into difficulties. The jury would say whether it was not contrived that there should be a series of balance-sheets to deceive the public, to conceal the loss which had been sustained, to make it appear a flourishing concern, and to draw in purchasers of new shares. The balance-sheet and report were prepared under the direction of Cameron; and the jury would say whether the directors and Cameron were not acquainted with the real state of the bank's affairs. It would be for them to say whether any two or more of the defendants were guilty; and though it would be a great satisfaction to him if they could say they were not guilty, he (Lord Campbell) was sure they would not shrink from their duty, but would give a verdict which would be satisfactory to their consciences and to the country. His Lordship concluded by advising the jury to retire.

His Lordship did not conclude his summing up till twenty minutes past four o'clock. The jury then retired to consider their verdict, and at six o'clock they returned into court.

The foreman said the jury were unanimous to find three of the defendants guilty, and eleven of the jury had agreed to find them all guilty, but he (the foreman) dissented from the latter verdict.

Lord Campbell said the verdict of the jury must be unanimous. The jury must retire, and reconsider their verdict. His Lordship then observed that he did not know whether a *nolle prosequi* could be entered as to the other four defendants.

Mr. Kennedy (for Brown) opposed that, and said it could not be.

Mr. Atherton said that in the discharge of his duty he could not consent to that.

Lord Campbell said he did not know that that course could be adopted, and directed the jury to withdraw and reconsider their verdict.

In answer to a question from a juryman,

Lord Campbell said that before convicting any one of the defendants the jury must be persuaded that he was acquainted with the insolvency of the bank, and knew that the balance-sheet was not a true representation of the state of its affairs.

The jury then again retired, and at a few minutes past eight they returned into court.

The foreman then said that they found all the defendants *Guilty*, but strongly recommended four of them—viz., Stapleton, Kennedy, Owen, and Macleod, to the mercy of the Court.

Lord Campbell—Mr. Atherton, do you pray judgment? I am prepared to deliver judgment.

Mr. Atherton—As your lordship is prepared, I pray judgment.

Lord Campbell—Perhaps it will be better if I take till Monday morning.

Mr. Serjeant Shee said the defendants could then submit affidavits.

Mr. Kennedy said he wished to move for a new trial.

Upon that Lord Campbell said he would pronounce judgment at once; and the defendants were all called to take their places on the floor of the court.

Lord Campbell said, I shall first pass sentence upon you, Humphrey Brown, Edward Esdaile, and Hugh Innes Cameron. After a long and, I hope, impartial trial, you have been convicted by a jury of your country, upon the clearest evidence of an infamous crime. You were charged with conspiring to deceive and defraud the shareholders of the bank to which you belonged by false representations, and it is clear that you did so. I acquit you of having originated this bank with the fraudulent intent to cheat the public; but it is now demonstrated that for years you have carried on a system of deliberate fraud, and fabricated documents for the purpose of deceiving the public, for your own direct, or indirect, benefit. It would be a disgrace to the law of any country if this were not a crime to be punished. It is not a mere breach of contract with the shareholders or customers of the bank; but it is a criminal conspiracy to do what inevitably leads to great public mischief, in the ruin of families, and reducing the widow and orphan from affluence to destitution. I regret to say that in mitigation of your offence it was said that it was a common practice. Unfortunately, a laxity has been introduced into certain commercial dealings, not from any defect in the law, but from the law not being put in force; and practices have been adopted, without bringing a consciousness of shame, and I fear without much loss of character among those with whom they associate. It was time a stop should be put to such a system, and this information was properly filed by her Majesty's Attorney-General, and the jury have properly found you guilty. I hope it will now be known that such practices are illegal, and will not only give rise to punishment, but that no length of investigation, no intricacies of accounts, and no devices will be able to shield such practices. On account of this being the first prosecution of this nature I pronounce a milder sentence than I otherwise should; but the mildest sentence that I can pronounce upon you, Humphrey Brown, Edward Esdaile, and Hugh Innes Cameron, is that you be imprisoned in the Queen's Prison for one year.

Richard Hartley Kennedy, the jury have recommended you to mercy, and I think there are grounds which justified them in coming to that conclusion; but still there is strong evidence against you. Though you were a respectable member of society, and filled creditably the office of sheriff, you lent yourself to this deception. You did not derive any personal advantage from it, but it is clear to my mind that when you joined in that last report you were fully aware that the bank was insolvent, and you knew it to be false. The lightest sentence I can give you is nine months' imprisonment in the Queen's Prison.

William Daniel Owen, the jury have found that you also had a guilty knowledge of the insolvency of the bank when you concurred in that report and balance-sheet, and I cannot say they were wrong, for you had long been a director, and had ample means of information, and several papers read show that. Therefore, though I think you are less guilty, you must be imprisoned for six months.

Henry Dunning Macleod, the jury, who are the proper judges of the fact, have found you also guilty. The sentence upon you is that you be imprisoned for three months.

John Stapleton, the jury have found you guilty; but I cannot conentiously order you to do more than pay a fine of 1*s.* to her Majesty, l be discharged.

Mr. Kennedy applied that execution of the sentences might be deferred Monday, in order that arrangements might be made.

ord Campbell—I will not delay execution of the sentence for a single ment. (Applause.)

he defendants were then removed in custody.

Ir. Atherton applied that the other informations might be made anets.

ord Campbell—Certainly.

Ir. Kennedy—And be tried after next term.

ord Campbell—I will make no order.

THE LAST EXAMINATION OF THE DIRECTORS, IN BANKRUPTCY.

the Court of Bankruptcy on the 5th March, an adjourned meeting for ing the last examination of the directors of the bank, took place before . Commissioner Holroyd, when Mr. Linklater said.—On the part of the ignees I can say that they do not consider that there is any necessity further adjournment, and they are indeed only too glad to find that y have arrived at a crisis, as I may term it, in the affairs of the Royal tish Bank, as the last examination of the directors will be, of course, conclusion of the proceedings under the bankruptcy, with the exception the dividend. In passing the last examination of the directors the asnees feel they cannot pass by the balance-sheets as they stand without e comment upon them and upon the trading of the Royal British Bank. is is one of the cases in which the directors do not come up for any tificate, and it would be therefore incorrect on the part of the assignees they were to pass the balance-sheets in silence. There are three ance-sheets filed—one by Mr. Esdaile, Mr. Macleod, Mr. Alderman nedy and Mr. Valiant, who were directors for a considerable period; ther by Mr. Gillott, Mr. Butt and Mr. Hurst, the three directors who e most recently into office; and the third by Mr. Stapleton. The lance-sheet filed by Mr. Gillott, Mr. Butt and Mr. Hurst very nearly resents the true state of the affairs of the bank during the period over ich the balance-sheet extends; and the balance-sheet of the other four, hough it represents a much more favourable state of things than the ignees believe to have been that within their own knowledge at the time bank stopped and for some time previously, yet it does not require re observation than an expression of dissent on the part of the assignees m the statement made by the directors with reference to many of the bts which are represented as doubtful, but which it appears from the oks of the bank were bad and known to be desperate at that time. ith reference to the balance-sheet of Mr. Stapleton (in all these remarks desire to say as little as possible under the circumstances), he represents far the greater proportion of the debts owing to the estate to have come doubtful and bad since the failure of the Royal British Bank. any of the debts which are stated to have now turned out doubtful and d were really at the time known to Mr. Stapleton to be doubtful and d, that is, some time before the bank failed. With reference to several the debts, amounting together to something like £6,000 or £7,000, re are indeed entries in the handwriting of Mr. Stapleton, in a book pt for the purpose and used by the past-due bill committee, from which it manifest the debts were either bad or doubtful some months before the yal British Bank failed. Then, with reference to the trading itself, the

official assignee has, with very great care and diligence and with very considerable pains, prepared a statement showing the trading of the Royal British Bank, and it would appear that at no period of the existence of the bank was there a single shilling of profit capable of division among the shareholders. The following tabular statement shows the result of the trading of the bank from its commencement to its termination:—

	Profit.			Loss.			Dividend.			Bad debts.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
For the year ending Dec. 31, 1850	4,169	19	10	—			2,000	0	0	7,928	16	7
Half-year ending June 30, 1851	766	12	8	—			1,250	0	0	8,461	19	0
Dec. 31, 1851	2,923	11	11	—			1,250	0	0	5,756	16	10
June 30, 1852	—			587	19	4	1,250	0	0	4,831	12	5
Dec. 31, 1852	3,834	12	4	—			1,500	0	0	2,118	1	4
June 30, 1853	767	18	4	—			1,500	0	0	11,530	14	10
Dec. 31, 1853	4,691	19	6	—			1,500	0	0	3,391	13	5
June 30, 1854	—			88	0	3	1,500	0	0	20,288	19	0
Dec. 31, 1854	232	15	5	—			1,500	0	0	18,271	2	9
June 30, 1855	1,303	14	7	—			3,000	0	0	3,094	6	9
Dec. 31, 1855	—			2,589	18	11	4,274	13	0	4,454	2	10
June 30, 1856	—			5,461	5	2	3,000	0	0	61,622	16	2
Premiums on new shares ...	1,040	0	0	—			—			—		
Do., Oct. 9, 1856	—			11,623	13	0	—			57,924	15	9
	£19,731	4	7	£20,350	16	8	£23,524	13	0	£209,675	17	8
Welsh Works ...	—			—			—			99,783	3	1
										£309,459	0	9

The assignees have felt it to be their duty to call your Honour's attention to these facts, because, although events have rather anticipated the result, it will be the duty of the Court, under the act of Parliament, to transmit the proceedings under this bankrupty to the Board of Trade, and in your Honour's report it will undoubtedly be material that these facts, which are shown by the books themselves, should be made known. With that explanation the assignees do not desire to prolong this case by resisting the passing of the last examination of the directors.

Mr. Freshfield—I can only claim for Mr. Stapleton such a forbearance as I am sure you are quite willing to afford to a gentleman so situated. If you should think fit that Mr. Stapleton should correct this balance-sheet, it may be done, or it may stand as it does at present.

The Commissioner—I think it will be desirable to put a memorandum upon the proceedings relating to it.

Mr. Freshfield—This shall be done.

Mr. Linklater—It is necessary I should make an observation about the Welsh works. They have been a source of the greatest anxiety to the assignees, and they had hoped that several negotiations would have resulted successfully, but they have gone off from time to time, as many that were attempted during the existence of the bank had failed. The assignees have, however, at last succeeded in making an arrangement with Mr. Talbot, the landlord, by which, in consideration of £6,000, they are to give up all the

a of doing at the end, announced to the creditors the fact that bankruptcy there would be a dividend of 10*s.* in the pound. lividend which they will be in a position to declare without the f funds coming from the contributories—an amount divisible realization of the estate itself. The official manager will, I be- re the end of the month, receive into his possession something 00. With that amount and the sums that will accumulate in the r. Harris will be able (and he has worked very zealously in the ay a dividend of 3*s* in the pound, in addition to the 2*s.* paid bankruptcy, thus making an additional dividend of 5*s.* in the he proposals for compromise are coming in every day, and only re was a renewal of an offer of £5,000 from one shareholder for rge. It is hoped that in a short time other shareholders, finding s of their body are released, will come forward and aid in that nt, which will result in the payment to the creditors of the full f 16*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. I cannot help, in conclusion, congratu- r Honour and myself upon the termination of these proceedings. d, M.P., said, on the part of the assignees, they feel they would g in a public duty if they did not take that opportunity, almost appearing before your Honour, to express their great thanks to men with whom they have been professionally connected in this the first place, we have to thank your Honour very much for the you have always shown to us and the courtesy with which you wed us to have access to you. We owe a debt of gratitude to Linklater, our solicitor. This has been no ordinary case. The themselves have devoted a vast amount of attention at consider- fice both of time and labour to this great undertaking; but what sacrificed has been small as compared with the sacrifice made by Linklater, and the assignees think it their duty to state thus he fact, because it has been supposed that out of the administra- is great estate our friend and legal adviser, Mr. John Linklater, m, may have been great gainers by the emolument they received ofessional advice and assistance which they have afforded to the of the Royal British Bank. From our personal knowledge we Mr. Linklater must have been in a pecuniary point of view a

of us who have been engaged in this matter must ever remember to the merit is due, and I take this opportunity in open court t Mr. Linklater this only tribute for his great, his distinguished, a unselfish services in this matter.

The Commissioner.—The Court quite concurs in the observations have been made with regard to the exertions of the solicitor conc this case. As to the gain, I should think that the gain would be th sciousness of having discharged a most painful duty, and certainly if possible, in reputation as a solicitor of this Court; but as to the niary gain, I should think that in all probability the reverse would case, because it has necessarily taken up his whole time and attenti his absence from this Court has in some respects created some in nience. However, it appears to me that he has discharged a most duty with great credit to himself and with great advantage to the It only remains for me to say that it will now be part of my duty to the balance-sheet and to the report of the official assignees, consider in what way a report should be worded to the Board of under the Act of Parliament, by which the Court is required to the Board of Trade the cause of the failure of the company, and a special circumstances which it may think fit, having regard to th ticular nature of the case. That will require some particular at devoted to it.

REFUSAL OF THE BANK DIRECTORS TO RE-DISCOUNT BILL BROKERS.

The Bank of England have just adopted an arrangement which sidered to be essential for the future safety of the banking transac the country. Henceforth no discounts will be granted to the bill b If those houses choose to receive money at call to an unlimited exte must themselves bear the responsibility of being at all times prep meet the engagements into which they may enter. They will no have the power of encouraging a redundant manufacture of pa lying on their immediate ability in times of sudden pressure t the onus of any difficulty on the Bank of England, and renderc dent as to their ultimate position by the endorsements of joi banks, and the consequent unlimited commitment of a multitud fatuated shareholders. It is plain the practice of the Bank of E in re-discounting for the bill brokers was just as inherently vic that of the bill brokers re-discounting for the joint-stock It is true the Bank of England have always exercised greater vigilance with regard to the character of any paper bro them than was thought necessary by the establishments in quest that makes no difference as regards the principle at stake; and can doubt that if the promoters of the late crisis had known f first that a resort to the Bank of England to cover the consequ their own want of prudence had been impossible, the commercia quencies fostered through so many years would never hav encountered. In relation also, to advances on bills an equally and stringent course is to be adopted. Hitherto it has been not only to discount for the money-lenders bills not having mo

› run, but also to make advances for a fortnight or shorter
ı bills maturing any time within six months. The one practice
discontinued as well as the other. Possibly applications for
nces may be entertained in exceptional cases, but it is to be
t these will be extremely rare, and that the general rule will
ıly adhered to. The present resolution will not interfere with
norial custom of the Bank to make advances on approved bills
periods in each quarter during the shutting of the transfer books,
the flowing in of the revenue removes large sums from the
ket which it is necessary for the public convenience should
listributed. These will be made to the discount and other
usual. The only object is to take advantage of the present
quiet to put a stop to the possibility, as far as the Bank is
, of a repetition of the events that have been lately witnessed.

VIDENDS DECLARED UNDER FAILED ESTATES.

vidend of 4*s.* in the pound has been announced by the inspectors
ıte of Messrs. Cox and Co., and also of Messrs. Rehder and
ı, two of the houses which failed during the height of the late

Lichtenstein and Co., German merchants, who failed in Decem-
notified a first dividend of 4*s.* in the pound.

Heine Semon and Co., who suspended with very large engage-
ing the crisis in November, and who announced in February that
ł be able either to meet all claims on the 25th March, or to pay
› pound on that day, and the remainder with interest in three
ıade the gratifying intimation, on the 12th March, that they had
ısiness, and were ready forthwith to pay every creditor in full
· cent. interest. The original stoppage appears to have been
pon solely as a matter of conscientious precaution, and the con-
e firm places them high among the few honourable exceptions in
ood of recklessness and incapacity.

Rew, Prescott and Co., who suspended in the Swedish trade
› late crisis, and subsequently made a most satisfactory state-
ıh enabled them to propose payment with five per cent. interest
ly instalments, commencing with one of 5*s.* on the 31st March,
ınced they would be prepared on that day to meet every claim

Dennistoun and Co., whose suspension for £2,000,000 was one of
erious events of the recent crisis, and who subsequently arranged
ull by instalments, have issued a circular anticipating the pay-
on the 31st of July on general account, and on the 30th of June
ian account, and stating their readiness to meet the same on the
h.

house of Messrs. T. H. Elmenhorst and Co., in the Swedish trade,
pended on the 11th of December last, and by which, at a meeting
owing month, a very favourable balance-sheet was presented,
ed that they are prepared immediately to discharge their liabili-
L.

THE TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade returns for the month of January were issued on the 22nd February, and present a reduction of £1,836,505 in the declared value of our exportations as compared with the corresponding month of last year, and of £753,186, even from January, 1856. The chief falling off has been in Manchester goods, and also in woollens and silks, but there is scarcely a single item of any importance on the favourable side. Machinery continues to be largely shipped, but this may be attributed to the fact that the orders for such work are usually given many months in anticipation, and that consequently the exports do not diminish until a considerable time after the cessation of purchases.

The following table shows the increase or decrease under each head:—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Months ending Jan. 31, 1857, and Jan. 31, 1858.	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.
Apparel and slops	£150,397	£149,153	—	£1,244
Beer and ale	135,430	161,103	25,673	—
Books	30,357	29,488	—	869
Butter	50,757	42,724	—	8,033
Candles	24,551	9,538	—	15,013
Cheese	13,021	4,566	—	8,455
Coals and culm	177,957	153,722	—	24,235
Cordage...	11,327	9,582	—	1,745
Cottons	2,608,971	2,150,779	—	458,192
Cotton yarn	521,991	636,342	114,351	—
Earthenware	114,072	76,084	—	37,988
Fish	20,210	10,094	—	10,116
Furniture	15,274	18,917	3,643	—
Glass	43,149	46,157	3,008	—
Haberdashery	317,27.	215,740	—	101,535
Hardwares	285,906	227,950	—	57,956
Leather	163,129	147,091	—	16,038
Linens	410,245	333,239	—	77,006
Linen yarn	92,467	88,441	—	4,026
Machinery	193,587	239,822	46,235	—
Iron and steel	791,925	590,810	—	201,115
Copper and brass...	213,816	169,236	—	44,580
Lead	44,915	27,657	—	17,258
Tin	132,753	69,779	—	62,974
Oil seed	46,191	50,033	3,842	—
Painters' colours...	28,601	15,942	—	12,659
Pickles and sauces	19,945	18,483	—	1,462
Plate and jewellery	34,490	24,821	—	9,669
Salt	24,046	10,833	—	13,213
Silks	311,926	111,042	—	200,884
Soap	19,386	12,603	—	6,783
Soda	45,219	39,177	—	6,042
Spirits	89,296	19.644	—	69,652
Stationery	50,482	52,747	2,265	—
Sugar, refined	41,667	14,904	—	26,763
Wool	60,432	41,098	—	19,334
Woollens	900,671	584,610	—	316,061
Woollen Yarn	177,914	119,631	—	58,283
Unenumerated articles	644,357	498,018	—	146,339
Total	9,058,105	7,221,600		

ard to imported commodities, there has been no general ther in arrivals or consumption. Indeed, in the latter as been an increase as respects many principal articles, gar, coffee, tea, fruits, and spices. Wines and spirits minution. In grain and flour there has been no material

are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken sumption :—

ıg Jan. 31, 1857, ı. 31, 1858.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
qrs.	332,401	342,841	332,401	342,841
r descriptions, qrs.	229,758	199,726	229,758	199,726
rs....	47,382	112,326	47,382	112,326
l, cwt.	333,163	305,510	333,163	305,510
acon, &c. &c., cwt.	14,680	6,734	Free.	Free.
ese, cwt.	54,165	41,192	62,067	47,954
.. ..	5,764	3,388	Free.	Free.
... ...	5,078,400	5,675,800	5,103,000	5,681,800
... ...	235,614	642,456	345,036	229,574
... ...	1,417,554	64,048	2,931,305	3,621,317
... ...	217,200	220,902	580,754	803,917
... ...	5,140,526	3,868,849	4,593,479	6,149,845
... ...	22,484	69,758	107,284	147,973
... ...	151,469	184,120	497,219	415,885
... ...	299,781	243,754	677,761	514,625
... ...	1,031,543	1,260,547	2,993,645	2,933,205
and raisins, cwt...	22,315	23,312	27,074	37,484
ranges, bushels ..	152,297	149,502	163,572	169,561
... ...	224,105	372,247	447,402	464,514
... ...	2,519	6,342	1,192	1,335

wing are the comparative imports and exports of raw wing a falling off in every article except cotton :—

ıg Jan. 31, 1857, ı. 31, 1858.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
... ...	39,473	17,902	—	—
... ...	10,378	2,813	—	—
... ...	225,219	61,159	130,738	85,873
... ...	300,807	308,402	51,688	38,510
... ...	1,321,660	1,072,297	642,363	395,149
... ...	23,315	15,950	549	1,082

anufactures the totals stand thus :—

ıg Jan. 31, 1857, ı. 31, 1858.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
ures of Europe, lb.	75,344	52,834	78,543	53,497
, pieces	7,890	44	15,415	10,559

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to Thursday, March 11 :—

DEBTOR.	F.	C.
Capital of the Bank	91,250,000	0
Ditto, New	91,250,000	0
Profits in addition to capital (Art. 8, Law of June 9, 1857)	1,435,505	74
Reserve of the Bank	12,980,759	14
New reserve	9,125,000	0
Ditto in landed property...	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	519,917,000	0
Ditto of the branch banks	43.347,600	0
Bank notes to order	5,628,654	75
Receipts payable at sight	2,648,186	0
Treasury account-current, creditor	94,137,131	28
Sundry accounts-current...	123,910,877	41
Do. with the branch banks	2.,975.152	0
Dividends payable	1,112,301	25
Discounts and sundry interests	996,796	28
Commission on deposits ...	6,119,602	65
Re-discounted during the last six months	2,209,982	52
Sundries	3,471,197	3
F.	1,039,516,687	0

CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand	123,194,385	73
Cash in the branch banks	214.582.899	0
Commercial bills overdue	2,648,729	66
Do. discounted, but not due	214,427,569	0
Ditto in the branch banks	219,956,080	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	1,792,700	0
Do. by the branch banks	2,062,662	0
Do. on French public securities	25,291,400	0
Do. by the branch banks	8,452,080	0
Do. on railway securities	51,859,800	88
Do. by the branch banks	15,528,186	0
Do. on Crédit Foncier scrip	243,500	0
Do. on branch banks scrip	90,600	0
Do. to the State on agreement of June 30, 1848...	50,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	12,980,750	14
Ditto disposable	52,189,482	3
New shares, not settled ..	28,202,669	0
Hotel & furniture of the Bk.	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	5,673,522	0
Expenses of the Bank ...	802,611	67
Sundries	5,587,821	42
F.	1,039,516,687	0

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, DE GERMINY.

The above returns show a further great augmentation in the stock of bullion. The increase last month was £1,260,000, and it is now £2,194,000, the total held being £13,509,000. At the same time there has been a contraction of £377,000 in the note circulation. The treasury balance has increased £620,000, and the deposits of the public, £155,000. The stagnation of business is indicated by a fresh reduction of £1,540,000 in the discounts, which last month fell off £2,840,000. With regard to advances for the Bourse, those on French stocks show a diminution of £95,000, while those on railways have increased £224,000.

From the report presented to the shareholders of the bank by Count de Germiny, the governor, on the operations during 1857, it appears that that year was one of the most agitated that the commercial world in France has ever had to encounter. The law for the renewal of the privilege of the bank enabled it successfully to raise its rate of discount without having recourse to the serious measure of restricting the dates of bills. Nine modifications in those rates were made during the year. The purchase of bullion, which in 1856 had been 563,900,000f. amounted in 1857 to 568,633,000f., being an increase of 4,733,000. The rate of premium, however, having been lower, those purchases which had cost 7,394,400f. in 1856, only stood the bank in 1857 in 4,678,100f., being a diminution of expense of 2.716,300f. It is not less true that, during these two years the bank paid nearly 12,000,000f. to procure the enormous sum of 1,124,500,000 of the precious metals; and yet, notwithstanding such an immense sacrifice, it has barely succeeded in maintaining the sum in its coffers at an amount in proportion with its engagement. It was, in fact,

the demand of the bank for bullion that gave rise to operations on a very extensive scale, and which consisted in reselling to the bank in the shape of bullion the money which was drawn from it in specie. The recent influx of specie has fortunately put an end to that traffic. The bank since the month of December last has ceased to pay any premium for bullion, and there is reason to hope that it will not again find itself under the necessity of recommencing this kind of operation, which imposes on it very heavy sacrifices without effecting any sensible modification in the situation of the money market. The total amount of the operations of the bank, which in 1856 had attained the sum of 5,809,000,000f., increased in 1857 to 6,065,000,000f., being a difference of 256,000,000f. The general movement of specie, notes, and deposits in the Paris Bank shows a decrease of 3,000,000,000f., having been in 1856 35,000,500,000f., and in 1857 32,000,500,000f. The discount of commercial bills had increased by 926,000.000f., having in 1857 reached the sum of 5,600,000,000f., against 4,674,000,000f., in 1856. The minimum of the bills in hand was, on the 11th June, 1857, 499,000,000f., and the maximum, at the end of July, 622,000,000f. An idea may be formed of the importance of the operations of the bank during the last months of 1857 from the facts that on the 31st of October in Paris alone 67,000 bills, amounting to the enormous sum of 83,000,000f., were collected in, and that on the 30th of December the bills presented for discount amounted to 33,000,000f. The notes in circulation at the beginning of 1857, were to the extent of 612,000,000f.; the average for the year was 649,000,000f., and the minimum 529,000,000f. The situation of the advances on securities has varied little, but having amounted on the 31st of December, 1856, to 55,717,100f., and on the 31st of December, 1857, to 57,745,000f. There were advanced during the year 125,000,000f. on Rente, 12,000,000f. on canal shares, and 103,000,000f. on railway securities. In 1856 the maximum of the accounts current with commercial houses was 169,768,000f., and the minimum 95,115,000f. In 1857 the former rose to 250,605,000f. and the latter to 104,052,000f. The modifications made by law for the conversion of securities to bearer into nominative ones have not sensibly changed the proportion of the securities deposited, the movement being nearly the same as in 1856. The amount of those securities represents a value of about 800,000,000f. The operations of the branch banks gave in 1857 a total of 4,159,800,000., and in 1856 3,615,800,000f., giving an increase for the former year of 544,000,000f. They gave a profit of 21,000,000f. in 1857, against 16,000,000f. in 1856. The four branch establishments of Marseilles, Lyons, Bordeaux and Lille stand first in the list for importance of business. That of Marseilles shows an increase of 201,000,000f.; Lyons, of 23,000,000f., Bordeaux, of 47,000,000f.; and Lille, of 9,000,000f. The three branches of Arras, Dunkirk, and Metz show a loss of 133,974f. arising, as regards the first two, from the expenses attendant on their establishment, and, as regards Metz, from bills remaining unpaid of Lasalle and Co. The losses of the Bank of France, in the midst of the difficulties of 1857, and after its colossal operations, have been scarcely anything. Its account of bills overdue during the year 1857 amounts to 292,573f., and this sum was lessened by the recovery of former outstanding debts for 118,663f., which reduces its losses to 173,920f. Such a result reflects the highest honour on French commerce, which in the midst of such severe trials has so scrupulously met its engagements. It evinces at the same time great prudence on the part of the bank.

Banking and Commercial Law.

SPECIAL INDORSEMENTS IN BILLS OF EXCHANGE AND PROMISSORY NOTES.

The leading case of *Sigourney* v. *Lloyd*, in which we have commented in our previous remarks, is thus alluded to by some eminent text writers on the law:—

In *Smith's Mercantile Law*, page 183, he says, "An indorsement may be so worded as to restrain the negotiability of the instrument, and is then called a restrictive indorsement; thus, 'pay the contents to J S only,' or 'to J S for my use,' are restrictive indorsements, and put an end to the instrument's transferrability. But in such case there must appear an unequivocal intention to restrain. therefore an indorsement in full to A, without the words 'or order,' will not deprive A of the power of transferring by his indorsement. An indorsement cannot be for part of the sum secured by the bill or note, if the residue remain unpaid, for that would subject the parties to a variety of suits, though it seems that if the residue be paid it may."

In *Grant's Law of Banking*, page 391, he says, "A restrictive indorsement is now, however, fully settled to have no power to stop the negotiability of a bill of exchange, for that a bill of exchange originally made payable to a person named, or his order, is in its nature negotiable; and if it be afterwards indorsed with such words as 'pay to A and him only,' this transfers to A the whole interest in the instrument, and that interest he may assign as he pleases; any restriction or confinement of his power to assign is contrary to the nature of things, and therefore void. Therefore there is nothing in a restrictive indorsement to prevent the restricted indorsee from making any assignment of the bill so as to confer a title to the bill: the right of action which the subsequent indorsee has is, it is true, only for the benefit of the restraining indorser. If, however, a person uses words to show that the restrictive indorsement was made to the restricted, as the agent or mere servant of the indorser, and that he never was intended to take an interest in the bill, thus a bill of exchange is indorsed by the payee to A, who indorses to B thus: 'Pay to B, or his order, for my use,' and B discounts the bill with his bankers, who without inquiry do so, and apply the proceeds of the bill to the use of B: the property in the bill is held to remain in A, who may sue the bankers."

This, therefore, seems to be the law on the subject: a restrictive indorsement cannot be made to have the effect of stopping or destroying the negotiability of a bill of exchange; but an indorsement may be made in a bill in such a way as to show the indorser not to have intended that his indorsee should take any interest of his own in the bill or its proceeds—that he is nothing more than the hand to receive the proceeds. In such case, if the latter discounts with a bank, they must see to the application of the money which they pay to the restricted indorsee, on account of the bill (it is said); and the purpose is to prevent a failing man from disposing of the bill before it becomes due, and from pledging it to relieve his own debts at the expense of his correspondent. But such an indorsement does not prevent the indorsee from receiving the money from the acceptor when the bill becomes due. To the objection that it cannot be expected that bankers, when asked to discount such bills, should look into the accounts between the principal and his agent; it is admitted that it cannot be expected that they should, but still, if they take a bill so indorsed they take it at their peril, and must be bound by the state of the accounts between those parties. Bankers should therefore reject such instruments.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. ALBERT PELLY AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Albert Pelly and Co., engaged in the Norwegian trade, who failed on the 7th December, was held on the 16th January. Mr. W. Tottie in the chair, when the following satisfactory statement was presented by Mr. G. H. Jay, the accountant:—

Dr.

To sundry creditors—			
On open accounts		£11,945 11 6	
On our acceptances ...	£2,286 14 1	2,286 14 1	
			£14,232 5 7
Creditor for cash loan secured by Mr. A. Pelly		12,751 6 0	
Liabilities on our acceptances, given on account of the drawers as per statement ...	84,311 15 6		
Who, it is expected, will be unable to retire them to the extent of		10,000 0 0	
Carried forward ...	£84,311 15 6	10,000 0 0	14,232 5 7

Brought forward ...	£84,311 15 6	10,000 0 0	£14,242
Creditors for amount due to them after retiring our acceptances in their favour, amounting to	20,659 16 1	7,084 7 6	17,084
Total acceptances ...	£107,258 5 8		
To liabilities on bills receivable	78,929 14 6		
Of which it is estimated will prove claims			5,000
Total claims			£36,316
To surplus			£49,425
			£85,741

Cr.

By cash at bankers viz.—			£1,468
Bank of England		34 10 9	
Barclay and Co.		1,433 10 1	
Bills receivable in hand		6,818 8 4	
Considered good		5,444 19 3	
Doubtful, £1,373 9*s.* 1*d.* estimated at 10*s.* in the pound		616 14 0	6,131
Sundry debtors—			
Secured	£14,021 17 8		
Unsecured	34,178 0 0		
	£49,099 17 8		
Considered good		34,687 4 0	
Doubtful, £14,412 13*s.* 8*d.* estimated at 10*s.* in the pound		7,206 6 10	41,893
Private estates of the partners for estimated surplus		49,000 0 0	
Thereof less, creditor secured thereon, per contra		12,751 6 0	36,248
Total assets			£85,741

Statement showing the Estimated Result of the Firm's operations from to Dec. 7, 1857.

Dr.

Capital, Jan. 1, 1857	£17,121
Balance of profit and loss to Dec. 7, 1857	6,196
Private estates of partners included in statement of assets	49,000
	£72,316

...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,425	5 10
							£72,318	7 9

e thus exhibits debts and liabilities of £36,316, and assets
·-20*s*. in the pound, with a surplus of £49,425. It was
ıat the account had been drawn out with great care, and that
rery expectation of the assets producing the amounts respec-
rth. The suspension was solely occasioned by the crisis, the
ıe 1st of January, 1857, having been £17,127, and the private
the partners £49,000. It will be noticed that this latter item
nts £36,248, and that it constitutes the principal proportion of

Very little discussion was entered into, but great sympathy
ed for the position of the firm, who, like Messrs. Sewels and
fessrs. Rew, Prescott and Co., have suddenly been brought to

Mr. Teesdale, the legal representative of the house, announced
l for the payment of the creditors. It was satisfaction in full
nds, with interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, by four
nents of 5*s*. in the pound, at six, twelve, eighteen, and twenty-
, from the 25th day of February next; the extension of this
necessary to obtain the consent of the Norwegian claimants,
ert Pelly and Co. were immediately to resume and carry on
ss, and retain uncontrolled possession of their affairs. the cre-
ing to avail themselves of the privilege of appointing inspectors.
ons empowering the fulfilment of this arrangement were pro-
·. Boyson and seconded by Mr. Fenning.

STATE OF MESSRS. T. H. ELMENHORST AND CO.

g of the creditors of Messrs. T. H. Elmenhorst and Co., who
a the 11th December, took place on the 16th January, when

Dr.

To sundry creditors, as per statement				£516
Creditors fully secured, as per statement, viz.—				
Estimated value of security	£1,000	0	0	
Amount of claim	208	6	7	
Surplus, per contra	791	13	5	
To liabilities on acceptances, as per statement	71,486	14	6	
Of which claims are expected to arise on, say	...		...	8,816
Liabilities on bills receivable,, as per statement	47,537	17	1	
Of which, considered bad	£2,830	0	4	
Less balances in the hands of bankers, held against liability	995	12	5	
				1,834
				£11,167

Cr.

By bills receivable on hand—				
As per statement	£6,359	14	5	
Considered good	5,200	12	5	
Doubtful £1,159 2 0				
Estimated at	579	11	0	
				£5,780
By sundry debtors, as per statement—				
Considered good				4,206
Considered bad	£317	10	5	
By surplus securities in the hands of creditor, per contra..				791
				£10,781
By dividends on the liabilities per contra, treated as claims, say 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound thereon, viz.—				
On acceptances	£8,816	9	8	
On bills receivable	2,830	0	0	
	£11,646	9	8	
Say				3,500
				£14,281

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. HERMANN COX AND CO

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Hermann Cox and Co., eng business as general merchants, who suspended on the 1st of Decem held on the 21st of January, when the following statements were pu by Mr. Ball, of the firm of Messrs. Quilter, Ball and Co., the accoun

Dr.

To sundry creditors unsecured				£88,53
Creditors partially secured—				
Amount of claims	£52,546	7	5	
Less estimated value of security	39,852	17	0	
				12,69
Carried forward ...				£101,22

	Brought forward ...				£101,225	7	7
y secured—							
value of security ...		£7,300	18	1			
t of claims... ...		6,506	10	6			
Surplus ...		£794	7	7			
bills receivable—							
g amount		£244,224	0	5			
to prove claims on the							
... ...		£42,302	19	1			
nd securities deposited		2,080	19	5			
					40,221	19	6
acceptances outstand-							
... ...		£64,536	2	2			
prove claims on the estate for ...					4,464	6	2
ims in respect of goods purchased ...					9,000	0	0
					£154,911	13	3
l bills on hand					£14,950	2	6
rs—							
good					38,549	3	0
doubtful		£52,095	13	6			
d at 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound					17,365	4	6
bad		£17,168	7	7			
andise on hand					13,320	11	2
ities, per contra					794	7	7
to Sydney					400	0	0
					£85,379	8	9
aries, &c., payable in full					250	0	0
					£85,129	8	9
... ...					69,782	4	6
					£154,911	13	3
e suspension, the cash							
s in hand have been							
merchandise sold and							
to		£31,037	2	10			

ATEMENT ACCOUNTING FOR THE DEFICIENCY.

t December, 1857, as per statement of							
... ...					£69,782	4	6
anuary, 1857					40,410	3	11
	Carried forward ...				£110,192	8	5

	Brought forward		...£110,192
Profits, viz.—			
Commission	£7,900 19 11		
Cotton	280 10 2		
Insurance	94 9 7		
Interest	425 11 6		
Sundries	5,087 10 9		
			13,789
			£123,981
Cr.			
By trade charges—			
London and Liverpool	£5,691 3 2		
H. Cox's drawings	2,067 6 11		
			7,758
Sundry losses on produce			8,556
Bad and doubtful debts, viz.:—			
Estimated loss on doubtful ...	... 34,730 9 0		
Bad	... 17,168 7 7		
			51,898
Liabilities proved bad			47,767
Estimated claims in respect of goods purchased ...			9,000
			£123,981

The estate, it was explained, shows about 11*s.* in the pound, but t every reasonable prospect of 10*s.* being secured. The assets alr hand are sufficient to pay a dividend of 4*s.*, but a distribution ca made until the whole of the liabilities shall have run off. Marc period when the result in this respect will have been ascertained, the total is now diminished by £160,000. The estimate of the d debts has been taken on a fair average; and the assets since the have increased, through the sale of merchandise and the collection o The cause of the suspension has been heavy losses through the depr of produce, &c., the capital on the 1st of January last year havin £40,000. The proposal made by Mr. Hollams, the professional repr tive of the firm, was a liquidation, through the process of inspection, was generally assented to, and some of the creditors were appointed on behalf of the general body.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

The usual half-yearly general court of proprietors was held on th March, at the Bank, to consider of a dividend. There was a attendance of proprietors, Mr. Sheffield Neave (the governor) presidi

The Secretary having read the minutes of the previous meeting, t same having been confirmed,

The Governor said—I have to acquaint the court that this is one half-yearly general courts, called under the 12th bye-law of the cha

the making of a dividend. The net profit on the 27th February last was £805,294 9*s.* 7*d.*, making the amount of rest on that day £3,848,509 1*s.* 11*d.*; after providing for a dividend of 5½ per cent. the rest will be £3,018,094 1*s.* 11*d.* The court of directors, therefore, propose that a dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. be declared on the profit of the half-year, ending 5th of April next, without deduction on account of income tax. (Applause.)

Mr. Thompson wished to know what was the cause of decrease in the amount of rest at the date when the accounts were made up a fortnight since?

The Governor—That apparent decrease arises from the amount of rebate which is carried to the next account. The nature of discount is, that the amount charged for interest is deducted at the time of making the advances; the consequence is that the rate of interest applies to the whole term that the bills have to run. The dividend is made up to a period of time when the bills are not matured, and the difference, or rebate, is carried to the next half-year's account.

Mr. Matthew Clarke said there was a decrease on the rest in this account. It was customary to add £300,000 to the rest at this period of the year, but on the present occasion, they had carried only £132,000 to it.

The Governor—It must have been that the wages coming due at that time that the item had not been written off. It may be also that there were certain losses which had been written off, which the bank had made during the half-year. It would depend upon the days that these items passed through the books as to the amount of rest.

Mr. Clark said it might be expected that the dividend would not be so high in consequence of the recent commercial crisis, and that the profits would have been larger had there not been any losses; but it appeared there had been some losses, and that accounted for the decrease of dividend. The dividend, however, was 11 per cent., and the directors had carried a large sum over to the next half-year's account.

After a few remarks from Mr. Borrodaile,

The Governor said—The bank has taken the precaution of retaining something in order to meet the probable losses that appeared to the directors likely to occur. They have written off what was considered a great loss, and have been prudent enough to apply a proper, but by no means an excessive, proportion, with a view to pay the probable losses which are yet outstanding.

Mr. Borrodaile said he was not disappointed at all in the amount; but he found that, besides the other advances, there was £25,000,000 or £30,000 000 under the item of "other securities," while the average was £20,000,000. During that time the Bank was taking from 8 to 10 per cent. interest, and, therefore, he felt that they ought to have expected a somewhat larger dividend.

Mr. Clark said that, as the business had been increasing, they might expect a proportionate amount of risk and losses.

The Governor—The question seems on the mind of the previous speaker (Mr. Borrodaile) to be, that the loss on the bills could hardly have amounted to so much as to have reduced the dividend to what it is. But I must remind the court that the Bank have made large sacrifices in the sale and purchase of stock to assist the commercial world.

Mr. Alderman Salomons, having the fullest confidence in the directors, and expressing satisfaction at the position the bank held in the commercial world, felt that it was most undesirable that when they met there, for six months of the greatest anxiety, the discussion should turn on the

amount of dividend. He should like to hear the opinions of some persons who were conversant with commercial transactions, whether it was advisable to strain a dividend at such a period for the purpose of meeting the wishes of some proprietors. He felt they would be wanting in their duty, and would not be doing justice to themselves nor to the bank, if they did not pass a vote of thanks to the governor and directors expressive of their satisfaction of the commercial world as to the manner in which the bank was managed.

The governor then said it was his duty to declare a dividend of 5½ per cent. for the half-year ending the 5th April next, without deduction on account of income tax.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Alderman Salomons then proposed that a special vote of thanks be passed to the governor, deputy-governor, and court of directors for the able management of the affairs of the bank during the past half-year.

Mr. Matthew Clarke seconded the motion.

Mr. Brown wished, before the motion was put, to ask whether the western branch of the bank was paying?

The Governor—I have great pleasure in saying that it is. (Applause.)

Mr. Salomons expressed his gratification on hearing these questions put, as it tended to throw new life into the meeting.

The motion was then put and carried, and ordered to be advertised in the daily papers.

The Governor—On behalf of myself and my colleagues I beg to say that, in the ordinary conduct of your affairs, we derive the greatest satisfaction when we feel that our management meets with your approval. How much more so must it be when you so warmly approve of our conduct during the past half-year, during which time it was necessarily our duty to keep in sight both your interest and the wants of the commercial community; and, if we have the satisfaction of knowing we have merited a continuance of your confidence and support, it is with a feeling of honest pride that we have done our duty. We have, it is true, passed through trial; but it is a consolation to us to receive our meed of praise at your hands, and your cordial approbation for our past conduct. (Applause.)

It was then announced that the dividend warrants would be ready for delivery on Tuesday, 6th April next, and the court adjourned.

THE LIVERPOOL BOROUGH BANK.

A SPECIAL meeting of the shareholders in this bank was held on the 25th February, in the board-room at the Bank, at Liverpool.

Mr. Banner read the statement and report prepared by Messrs. Harmood, Banner, and Son, on the affairs at the bank.

It appeared from the general statement of the affairs at the date of suspension, October 27th, 1857, that the assets amounted to £1,488,524, and the liabilities to £1,466,138, leaving a surplus of £22,386. The general balance stated the estimated loss on bad and doubtful debts, properties, &c., at £626,113, and loss on bills of exchange on hand and current at £339,044, together £965,157. The share capital amounted to £936,137, and the undivided profit and loss to £51,408, making together £987,545, showing a surplus of assets amounting as above to £22,386.

The report stated that—

"The liabilities have been taken as it is considered that they will result, but it will be observed that there is in the statement an amount of

19*s.* 6*d.* of bills of exchange, part of those estimated to be
pon which no claims are calculated, time only and indulgence
d to be necessary to make them ultimately good. This time and
the liquidators are granting. with the concurrence of the bill-
d large securities have been transferred to the bank in guarantee
nate payment; but it is not to be denied that the claims upon the
be increased from this source by the failure of parties or
y of securities, and the contingency, therefore, is not to be
lost sight of. Loss of interest and cost of liquidation will also
provided for, neither being included in the statement now
We mentioned in our report of the 12th of November that the
ccounts upon which the losses have occurred. now contained in
ent, have been current upon the books of the bank for some
om scarcely any of these have amounts been written off. but
issue of the directors' report in July last an estimate was made
losses, amounting in the aggregate to £370,000, against which
idered that there would be in round figures the

profit and loss to the 31st of December, 1856,			
idend	£25,000	0	0
he 30th of June, 1857, estimated at	75,000	0	0
nd	102,000	0	0
ccount	113,000	0	0
Making a total of	£315,000	0	0

he deficiency to £55,000.

spense account consists mainly of interest upon debts lying over,
t or active, but considered doubtful; and in no case has such
en taken into the profit and loss of the bank, to swell the amount
the proprietors as the earnings applicable to dividends. The
f the bank is all that has been represented. and we have no re-
ake upon the profits from time to time shown to have been
ey have been very large, and more than ever increase the regret
business should have been lost.

, 1851, to the same time in 1857, the profits

ounted to	£675,265	18	8
the interest charged to the doubtful and bad			
, which was credited to suspense account.			
nds paid during the same time have been ...	287,253	14	3
balance of	388,012	4	5
ch has been deducted bad debts and losses			
off	253,288	16	10
ill for reserved fund	£134,723	7	7

the small amount of available securities shown in the statement
and the large amount of debts owing to the bank, it will be seen
stem pursued has locked up the funds to an extent far beyond
of such a capital as that possessed by this concern. The ad-
open accounts have not been excessive, but there has been a
roper care and sound judgment in the discount of bills, which
mulated an amount of risk, almost certain, without additional

means and an altered policy, to produce the catastrophe which has occurred. Securities have certainly been taken from time to time which a more complete knowledge on the part of directors and managers of the true principles of banking would have induced them at once to realise, even at an apparent sacrifice.

"It is right to state that for some years past the principal debtors to the bank have been required by the manager, from time to time, to furnish balance-sheets and statements of their affairs. These documents we have seen, and in no case is there insolvency shown where depreciation has not been written off. Those of most importance have been connected with shipping, and their position, of course, has been dependent upon the value of their vessels.

"Happily, with one exception, we have not to report any of the directors in the category of overdrawn balances upon which balances are expected to be sustained; and it is certainly a feature in this concern, as distinguishing it from similar suspensions which have occurred, that neither directors nor managers have sought to benefit themselves by their influential position in the bank, but, on the contrary, all are losers to a very large extent.

"Two only of the directors had overdrawn accounts—one in the name of his firm, to the extent of about £31,000, of which £15,000 has already been paid, and the remainder is in course of liquidation; the other, to the extent of £10,700, for the exclusive purpose of paying calls upon shares in the Magnetic Telegraph Company. The latter gentleman had £10,000 of paid-up stock in the bank, which he states that he considered a sufficient security for the amount drawn. Unfortunately this stock ceases to be valuable, and all that he proposes and can offer in satisfaction of the debt, are the Telegraph shares adverted to, worth at the present time about £7,500. Upon this account, therefore, there will be a loss of about £3,200. Much misconception having existed as to the relations of Mr. Oliver with the bank, we think it right to state what the facts really were. The borough Bank were not his bankers, and the only transactions directly with him were in the discount of bills across the counter upon the credit of names other than his own.

"The whole amount of these bills so discounted from time to time was £167,864 1*s.* 2*d.*, of which at the time of his stoppage £44,711 19*s.* 9*d.* had still to run off. All of these were duly paid at maturity, and therefore upon the direct transactions with him the bank were in no way sufferers. They were holders, however, of bills upon Mr. Oliver, received from their own customers in the course of business, paid in or discounted by the latter upon their own credit, which at the time of his stoppage amounted to £121,277 4*s.* 6*d.*

"Mr. Oliver's failure of course injured the position of the parties from whom these bills had been so received, and the mischief recoiled upon the bank; but the most gloomy anticipations could scarcely have contemplated the enormous fall which followed in the value of shipping and in the North American trades, with which so many of his friends were connected. One important fact should be stated as regards the engagements of the bank—namely, that its liabilities upon current bills on the 31st December, 1854, was £4,789,000, while on the 27th October last they had been reduced to £3,575,000. In conclusion, we have only to add that all parties are directing their best energies to the liquidation of the bank, and the success of that liquidation must depend on the unanimity and cordial co-operation of all who are interested in the result."

Moved by Mr. Woodward and seconded by Mr. Nicholson, and carried

nimously:—"That the statement and report presented by Messrs. ner and Son be printed and circulated among the shareholders."
r. Martin expressed a request, which the meeting confirmed, that i time to time the shareholders' committee be called together to ive from the liquidators information as to the progress of the dation.
vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

THE BILSTON DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY.

twenty-first annual meeting of this bank was held at Wolverhampton, e 2nd February, 1858, Mr. W. H. Sparrow in the chair, when the wing report was presented and adopted:—
e directors have audited the accounts of the bank to the 31st mber last. After making ample provision for every bad and doubtful and allowing rebate interest on undue bills, there is a profit for the of £4,531 15*s*. A dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year ending June, 1857, has been paid, and the shareholders are recommended o declare the like dividend for the half-year ending 31st December, g the surplus to be carried to the guarantee fund.

ents of the Profit and Guarantee Fund, with the surplus appropriated as proposed.

lend of 5 per cent. to 30th June, 1857...			£1,518 15 0
lend of 5 per cent. to 31st December, 1857			1,518 15 0
est on guarantee fund			260 7 6
ns...			1,233 17 6
	Profit		£4,531 15 0
antee fund at last report			£8,678 18 1
est at 3 per cent....	£260 7 6		
ss profit	1,233 17 6		
		1,494 5 0	
Present guarantee fund			£10,173 3 1

THE UNITY BANK.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.

mewhat extraordinary and very tumultuous meeting of shareholders s bank was held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, on the y of March, in pursuance of the following requisition:—

"THE UNITY JOINT-STOCK MUTUAL BANKING ASSOCIATION.

e, the undersigned, being impressed with the unsatisfactory nature accounts and balance sheet submitted to the shareholders at the last l meeting, and believing that the present position of the bank raises st important question, whether the association can carry on business ny probability of a successful result, at least under the present nent, desire an opportunity of considering the subject in conjunc- th our fellow shareholders.

"It is hardly necessary to remark that independent shareholders have little opportunity of making their complaints heard at the ordinary meetings, and that the want of concert and combination amongst them paralyses their exertions and renders them liable to an easy defeat by the directors.

"We consider it advisable, therefore, that the proposed meeting should be a private one of shareholders only, and that no director or officer should be invited or be allowed to be present. For the purposes mentioned, we beg to convene a meeting of the shareholders, at the London Tavern, on Thursday, the 4th day of March, 1858, at twelve o'clock at noon, when your attendance is particularly requested. Such meeting will be preparatory to a general meeting of the company proposed to be convened by requisition to the directors.

"Should you be unable to attend, we shall be obliged by a letter stating your views on the subject, addressed to Messrs. Harrison and Lewis, solicitors, 6, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

"Dated this 11th day of February, 1858.

"J. Bradwell,	E. Booth,
G. Deakin,	M. Colton,
G. Hind,	J. Benedict.

"Those shareholders who are unable to attend, but approve of the object of the meeting, are invited to sign and return the following authority:—

"Concurring generally in the object of the meeting, as stated in the annexed circular, I authorise the bearer to vote on my behalf thereat.

"Name .....

"Address .....

"Holder of shares in the Unity Bank."

The representatives of the press, on presenting themselves for admission, were refused, and informed that the meeting was private to all but shareholders; and even the legal advisers of various shareholders were refused admission. The meeting was called for twelve o'clock, previous to which time many gentlemen inquired where the Unity Bank meeting was to be held, but the proprietor of the London Tavern knew of no such meeting, or of any room having been engaged for that purpose. After many inquiries, it turned out that the "Pink room" had been engaged for a bank meeting. On our reporter entering the room, he was informed by Mr. Lewis, of the firm of Messrs. Harrison and Lewis, that reporters could not be admitted, and that, in fact, he had hired the room for a private meeting. He then withdrew to the landing on the staircase, where a singular scene occurred. The gentlemen shareholders were required to show the circular they had received, and to sign a paper before entering the room. This a great number of them refused to do. A person was placed at the door to keep the refractory outside; but the attempt was futile. Many of the shareholders simultaneously called out, "We insist upon going in without signing any paper. Here is the circular, which states, 'Admission to the meeting on production of this circular only.' We will go in." The unhappy sentry, in the plenitude of his zeal, attempted to stay the "incursion," but his labours were in vain, a hat or two was knocked off in the scuffle, and the poor wight was obliged to acknowledge "Unity is strength," and a rush of determined shareholders followed.

Mr. Cuthbert was called on to preside, from the body of the meeting, and when the proceedings commenced the greatest uproar prevailed. None of the requisitionists were present in that capacity. Mr. Colton, whose name

appeared to the circular, expressed his surprise at his name being affixed thereto; and Mr. Benedict's name, it appeared, had been withdrawn.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The Chairman, in a lengthened speech, urged on the shareholders the point in which in past times they had exhibited remissness—the want of a firm and united purpose to promote the interests of the bank. In relation to himself, he might say he had never drawn a shilling from the bank, except for legitimate purposes (cheers), and ever since his connection with the bank he had kept a deposit account, a current account, and a business account, as well as his partner. It was only by united and undivided exertion, each man having a personal interest in the bank, that the concern might prosper. If each shareholder could not deposit a hundred pounds, let him put in fifty; and if not fifty, put in twenty. The directors had been pursuing a systematic course of retrenchment; but a circular like the one which had been sent round to convene this meeting was likely to do very serious damage to the concern. (Hear, hear.) He complained that the endeavour had been made to restrict the meeting only to those who were known to be favourable to the objects of the conveners and against the directors, and expressed a hope that the meeting would do something to show the sense in which they held such a proceeding.

Mr. Sherwood then moved, and Mr. Harris seconded, a resolution to the effect that the meeting considered the proceedings of the parties whose names were affixed to the requisition (sent only to those shareholders known, or supposed to be favourable to the proceedings proposed therein) as disreputable and disgraceful, and such as ought to be discouraged, and accordingly deserving of censure.

A suggestion was made that the names should be distinctly specified.

Mr. Benedict, who had signed, withdrew his name on the ground that it had been obtained from him for a different purpose than that represented to him when he signed.

Mr. Harris, who had seconded the motion, proposed that the names of Mr. Benedict and Mr. Colton should be mentioned in the resolution as exceptions to the censure.

A shareholder, who declared he had always been a friend to the bank, objected to the clause in the resolution relative to its having only been sent to those parties supposed to be favourable to the views of the directors' opponents. For himself he was most favourable to the directors, and yet he had received a copy of the circular.

The Chairman said he had not been invited, and it was from that circumstance he formed a general opinion.

Mr. Lewis thought it was a great mistake to propose a resolution at all, and considered it would be the wisest course to pass the matter by in silence (cries of "No, no"). A resolution of this kind, if of any good, was intended to be useful out of doors. They all knew their own minds, and people outside had talked quite enough about them. He could tell them that the circular in question was sent to every shareholder save the chairman and the directors. He was about to enter into a vindication of the parties who had signed the paper, which he thought contained nothing personally offensive to any one or prejudicial to the interest of the bank, when he was asked if he was a shareholder, and on replying that he was not, he was met with groans and hisses, and after a vain attempt to obtain a hearing, retired at the request of the chairman.

Mr. Bates, who declared himself to be a warm friend to the bank, considered it would be better for every one if the bank doors were closed to-morrow. ("Oh, oh," and uproar).

The resolution was put as amended (the names of Mr. Benedict and Mr. Colton being excepted) and carried with only one dissentient.

A resolution was then moved and seconded to the effect, "That in the opinion of this meeting the odium attempted to be cast on the management of the Unity Bank, in a letter dated Feb. 11. is undeserved, and this meeting is further of opinion that the management of the bank is well worthy of the support and confidence of the shareholders and the public generally."

This resolution was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was then passed to the chairman, who, in acknowledging the compliment, defended the conduct of the directors, and paid them a high eulogium for the manner in which they had conducted the affairs of the bank, and three groans having been given for the parties convening the meeting, and three cheers for the Unity Bank, the proceedings terminated. There were from 150 to 200 shareholders present.

BANK OF EGYPT.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of this bank was held on the 5th of March, at the London Tavern; Mr. Tite, M.P., in the chair.

Mr. Edward Cheshire, the secretary, read the notice convening the meeting, after which he read the minutes of the first general meeting, and the special general meeting in August of last year, which were confirmed.

The following report was then taken as read:—

"At a special general meeting held in August last, the accounts of the first six months of 1857 were laid before you, and a dividend declared. The directors now submit the usual statement of accounts for the six months ending the 31st of December last, showing a net profit of £14,212 15*s.* 6*d.*; and they feel confident that the result—conveying, as it does, proof of a progressive increase in the business and profits of the bank—will fully meet the expectations of the shareholders.

"The directors recommend—first, that a sum of £2,000 be written off preliminary expenses; secondly, that a sum of £5,000 be set apart to form the nucleus of a reserve fund, to meet contingencies—a measure, on the prudence of which the directors entirely concur with the opinion of the proprietors, as expressed at their last meeting; and, thirdly, that a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, amounting to £6.562 10*s.*, be declared for the half-year, leaving a balance of £1,819 3*s.* 9*d.* to be carried forward to the next account.

"It is a matter of no small satisfaction to the directors to be able to state that, during the last six months, embracing a period of unexampled commercial distress, the Bank of Egypt has been enabled to reap the benefit of the high rate of interest ruling in Alexandria, without the drawback of large bad debts, usually attendant upon times of monetary difficulty.

"It was owing to the same circumstance of financial pressure here that the directors deemed it advisable to postpone the final call upon the shares, and the opening of the Cairo branch, to the beginning of the present year; but they are now engaged in carrying out the latter measure, and feel every confidence in its future remunerative success.

"In conformity with the deed of settlement, Philip Anstruther, Esq.,

Cater, Esq., go out of office, and, being eligible, offer themselves
ection.
uditors also retire from office at this meeting, and are eligible for
n, should it please the proprietors to re-appoint them."

LIABILITIES, DEC. 31, 1857.

viz., 10,000 shares at £25 (£250,000), upon £18 15*s.* have been paid up, as follows :—					
£5 per share), January 31, 1856	£50,000	0	0		
(£7 10*s.*), May 31	75,000	0	0		
all (£6 5*s.*), Oct. 31	62,500	0	0		
				£187,500	0	0
l not called up, £62,500.						
fund				5,000	0	0
able, current and other accounts				364,858	16	6
d loss (balance as below)*				8,381	13	9
				£565,740	10	3

ASSETS, &c., DEC. 31, 1857.

... ...	£33,734	8	3		
ceivable, advances, and other ies	522,020	0	0		
niture and fixtures	1,986	2	0		
				557,740	10	3
ary expenses	10,000	0	0		
mount written off this half-year	2,000	0	0		
				8,000	0	0
				£565,740	10	3

Profit and Loss, Dec. 31, 1857.

alaries, directors' remuneration, l all current expenses in London, date	£2,382	19	5		
salaries, and all current ex- nses, &c., in Alexandria ...	5,266	5	5		
				£7,649	4	10
nt set aside for reserve fund, as above ...				5,000	0	0
nt written off preliminary expenses				2,000	0	0
ce carried down				7,212	15	6
				£21,862	0	4

for the last six months, after providing for bad ts and rebate of interest	£21,862	0	4
idend of 3½ per cent. for the half-year, on the p capital, payable on the 15th of March ..	£6,562	10	0
arried to next account	1,819	3	9
	£8,381	13	9

* Balance brought down		£7,212 15 6
Ditto of undivided profits of 30th June, 1857	£1,771 9 10	
Less income-tax on profits to that date	602 11 7	
		1,168 18 1
		£8,381 13 7

The chairman, in moving that the report and accounts now presented b received and adopted, said that the remarks which he had to make woul be very few, he was happy to say, because he felt he might congratula the board and the proprietors at large on the general success of the unde taking. They had been a long time established, but they had seen th they had been pretty accurate in their calculations, and that the expect tions which were held out in the first instance were not doomed to be di appointed. The accounts showed a net profit for the six months endi the 31st of December last of £14,212 15*s.* 6*d.*, and he had to assure t proprietors on the part of the directors, that that was really the net pro on their business. They had been fortunate in not having made a gre amount of bad debts, but they had written off every bad and doubtf debt; and the statement which was before them showed a net profit real and honestly earned. (Applause.) They had had some difficulty arriving at a conclusion as to how they ought to deal with the surpl profit. The board were all (in common with the proprietors) anxious to g rid of the preliminary expenses, and it was a charge which they could n get rid of too fast in justice to the present proprietary. The prelimina expenses, as the accounts showed, were taken at the sum of £10,000, a it was proposed to write off £2,000, which would reduce this item to £8,00 After much consideration, the board thought that that was the conclusi to which they ought to come. (Hear.) The next item, which general produced in the commercial world a great deal of discussion, was—that the reserve fund. (Hear, hear.) He apprehended that no judicious man wou approve of the system of spending the profits up to the hilt (hear, hear); b that, on the contrary, they should place something substantial to a reser fund. As to the way of disposing of or dealing with that fund there w much difference of opinion. It was questioned sometimes whether it shou not go to the equalising the dividend, or be made applicable to a speci purpose. The directors had come to the conclusion that it was better set it apart to meet any contingencies which might arise. (Hear, hea But when he suggested this it was not an *arrière-pensée* to meet any co which they feared they should have to encounter; but that the sum nam should remain as a nucleus of a reserved fund to meet any contingenc It might, perhaps, be applied to a dividend hereafter. The board agre in the suggestions which had been urged by proprietors on a former o casion that there should be a reserve fund; and further, because there w a universal opinion that they ought not to pay a dividend on a successf year without making such reservation when their interests might b influenced by the high rate of money. At the same time there was circumstance which it would be convenient to state—namely, that t fluctuations in the exchanges with Alexandria were not so great as in oth places, and they were spared from that influence. The cause of parti running out of gold was that they had to meet adverse courses of exchang but this did not affect Alexandria, where it was a metallic currency, a the fluctuations of the exchanges did not exceed 3 per cent., but wi

tuating exchanges perhaps the reserve fund might properly be resorted n an emergency. It would be in the recollection of the proprietors at the last special meeting they authorised the board to open a branch t at Cairo, which was the very centre of cultivation. It was thought rable as one of the items of the original undertaking that they should i this branch, but the state of the times and the monetary pressure prevented the accomplishment of this object; and for the same reason inal call upon the shares had been postponed till the beginning of the . The directors had determined to limit their operations within what he d prudential limits. He was happy to say, however, that arrangements been made with the Pacha, and that the branch bank at Cairo would pened in six weeks. They had two managers in Egypt, Signor uali and Mr. Foresmann, and these two gentlemen, with the cashier, ed a board. The board intended that Mr. Foresmann should go iro, to manage the new branch there, and this rendered it necessary Signor Pasquali should have an adviser and assistant to act with him; he believed he might quote a well-known expression, they had found right man in the right place." (Hear.) They had fortunately met Mr. Rankin, of the firm of Rankin Brothers, a gentleman who was acquainted with Malta, and whose positions and talents were equally known, and who had dissolved partnership on his nephew coming of They had engaged Mr. Rankin on moderate terms, and he believed ould probably leave this country in three or four days' time. It ld be necessary to have great prudence exercised in their management; the directors were bound to say they had every confidence in the it, the energy, and the zeal of Signor Pasquali and Mr. Foresmann. instructions had been framed, which were certainly extremely rigid. board were anxious to do a safe business, without risking too much rger profits. There might have been an impression that the bank not afforded all the accommodation they might have given; but really act was that those who came to borrow appeared as if they never l get enough from the parties lending. (A laugh.) With respect to all which was made to the extent of £62,500, not more than £2,500 ained unpaid. He moved the adoption and reception of the report accounts.

r. Hayes seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.
dividend was declared in accordance with the recommendation in the rt, payable on the 15th instant.
e retiring directors and auditors were severally re-elected; and the edings closed with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and tors.

THE ALLIANCE (ENGLAND AND FRANCE) BANK.

MEETING of this company was held on the 24th of March, at the lon Tavern, Mr. Miller in the chair, who said he had taken a consi- ble interest in this concern when it was first instituted, with a view to ite investment. He need not attempt to conceal from the shareholders hat that they had been attacked by invidious reports from without; pon inquiry he found that those reports were based on nothing, and as glad to say, for his own sake and that of his fellow proprietors, he had too much experience of business to lend a willing ear to such rts. He felt that though he had taken the chair on the occasion, he not competent to give a statement of the affairs of the company. He

would call upoon Mr. Stokes, their manager, to lay a statement of the affairs of the company before them.

Mr. Stokes then proceeded to read a report, which set forth that at the last meeting held in London, on the 24th of September, 1857, the shareholders were reminded that the balance carried forward on the 31st of December, 1856, to profit and loss new account had been 158,299f. 21c., or £6,331 19*s.* 5*d.* The gross profits of the year 1857 had been 961,529f. 10c., or £38,461 3*s.* 2*d.*, from which must be deducted the current expenses, amounting to 160,221f. 41c., or £6,408 17*s.* 1*d.*, and the amount written off for bad debts, previous to the 31st December, 1857, viz., 40,584f. 53c., or £1,623 7*s.* 7*d.*, leaving a profit for the year 1857 of 760,725f. 16c., or £30,428 18*s.* 6*d.* Out of this sum a dividend or interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending on the 30th of June last was declared in September, this being 12½f., or 10*s.* per share on 10,000 shares, amounted to 125,000f., or £5,000, leaving a balance of profit of 635,723f. 16c., or £25,428 18*s.* 6*d.* But since December 31, 1857, in consequence of two failures, of which the result was uncertain, it had been thought best to write off provisionally the whole amount due from the parties in question, viz., 54,541f. 60c.; or £2,181 13*s.* 3*d.*, with the expectation, however, that some assets will be ultimately recovered. After the severe crisis that the commercial world had lately gone through, and considering the large amount of business done by the bank as a new undertaking, it could not be a subject of surprise that some of the assets consisted of securities which, though held as valuable, were not immediately convertible into cash. It was, however, a matter of satisfaction to know that the total amount of those securities was less than the amount of the net profits for the year. Nevertheless, upon the principle that it was right only to divide as profits the surplus actually available, the members of the council having in view the personal responsibility imposed upon them by the French law, as quoted to the shareholders in the first report of the bank, had determined to reserve the full amount of the securities referred to, thus reducing the dividend for 1857 to the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, leaving to the next meeting the division, by way of bonus, of such further profits as shall then be available. The payment of the above-mentioned dividend would take 125,000f., or £5,000; and, after paying to the council and management the stipulated allowance of 5 per cent. each on dividend profits, and placing the statutory 5 per cent. to the reserve fund, which sums together amounted to 37,500f., or £1,500, there would remain, in addition to the previous reserve of £6,331 17*s.* 6*d.*, a further sum of 418,681f. 56c., or £16,747 5*s.* 3*d.*, to be carried to the profit and loss new account. The dividend when declared in Paris on the 29th inst. will be free from the new French tax, which the bank pays and includes in current expenses.

The report was adopted, and a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the past half-year was declared, and a vote of thanks to the management and chairman closed the proceedings.

BANK OF MADRAS.

t of the Affairs of the Bank of Madras, at 31st December, 1857.

ASSETS.

its on deposit of Government securities	...Rs.	4,98,525	8 6
ditto ditto	...	17,70,015	7 3
nt bills discounted	...	1,00,398	11 0
ditto	...	5,88,982	6 11
engal	...	6,376	12 1
ombay	...	29,544	12 10
k	...	26,701	6 11
of cash in hand	...	43,39,999	6 10
	Rs.	73,51,544	8 4

LIABILITIES.

s and post bills in circulation ...	Rs.	19,76,895	6 6
... ...	...	22,18,590	15 5
rs' capital	...	30,00,000	0 0
fund and profits for half-year ended	...	1,56,058	2 5
	Rs.	73,51,544	8 4

fund, at 30th June, 1857	... Rs.	42,503	14 9
for half-year	...	1,13,554	3 8
	Rs.	1,56,058	2 5

at 7½ per cent. per annum on capital	...Rs.	1,12,500	0 0
f reserved fund	...	43,558	2 5
	Rs.	1,56,058	2 5

W. STANCH, *Secretary.*

Communications.

IMPROVEMENTS IN JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

banks, whether private or joint stock, are so intimately con-
th the welfare of their customers, that their establishment upon a
becomes in the highest degree important to the public, as also
ent management when once so established. For this purpose our
st should be, to insure a respectable and wealthy proprietary,—if
sured, the regulation of the bank may be safely left in their

limited liability which attaches to shareholders in joint-stock
st deter many wealthy men from becoming shareholders, from
of risking their whole fortunes. The consequence is, that the
too often taken up by small traders, spinsters and others, who

perhaps have little or no property beyond the amount of their shares, and whose utter ignorance of business prevents their being of any service in the direction of the bank's affairs,—and hence it follows that the real management is confined to comparatively few, instead of being extended gradually throughout the proprietary.

To illustrate this more clearly, let us examine the list of shareholders in the Northumberland and Durham District Bank, as returned to the 14th of February last. Here we have the number of shareholders given at 411. Of these we find 67 are spinsters, 38 widows, 2 married ladies (shareholders in their own right) 14 clergymen, and 8 farmers, in all 129. If we add to these 82 miscellaneous, consisting of teachers, railway clerks, grooms, butchers, grocers, &c., we have a total of 211 shareholders, who from their position in life are unable to be of any service in the direction of the bank's affairs, added to which they would, many of them, be ignorant of the responsibility which attaches to their shares.

If, on the other hand, the liability of shareholders in joint-stock banks were to be limited to three or four times the amount of their shares, there is no doubt but that the respectability of the shareholders would be much increased. The shares would then be more freely taken up by men of wealth and standing in society, and their greater knowledge of business would operate again in maintaining a healthy and prudent management, whilst the real intention of joint-stock banks would be more fully answered, viz., giving to the public undoubted security and placing the direction of affairs to some extent under the control of every shareholder.

The legislature have already taken one step towards preventing the shares in joint-stock banks from being taken up by the poorer classes of society, viz., by enacting that no new bank shall be formed with shares of less than £100 in amount, and that at least half of the subscribed capital shall have been paid up before commencing business. Let them go even further, and provide that no shares in any future bank shall be held by any person who does not pay income tax, which would be equivalent to providing that no one whose income was under £100 per annum should hold shares in a bank. Banks, above all other institutions, should be governed with the utmost prudence, involving, as they do, the welfare of all connected with them. It is not therefore in justice to allow the shares to be taken up by porters, butchers, seedsmen, and others, who can know little or nothing of their constitution, and who, if unforeseen circumstances should bring on loss, can contribute nothing to meet it. Indeed, we should have thought that the self-interest of the more wealthy shareholders would have prompted them to make some step in this direction, that in such a case each shareholder might be able to subscribe his quota.

Most banks introduce a clause into their deeds of settlement, providing that if a certain proportion of the capital is lost, the affairs of the bank shall be wound up; yet, notwithstanding this provision, we have instances where not only the whole of the capital, but also a large portion of the depositors' money, has been lost before the bank has stopped—such as the Western Bank of Scotland, the Northumberland and Durham District Bank, Liverpool Borough Bank, &c. What means have we for preventing these irregularities? In the first place, by increasing the respectability of the proprietary, when they will be more vigilant in watching over the bank's affairs; in the second place, by limiting the amount of dividends that may be paid by joint-stock banks; in the third place, by obliging each bank to keep, in Government securities and cash, at least one-fifth of its whole liabilities.

In reference to the rate of dividend it is manifestly unwise in any bank

to pay very high dividends, and yet it seems to be the great aim of many establishments. It is unwise since it prevents the laying by of a sufficient reserve to meet unforeseen losses; and in the end it is detrimental, from the inducement it holds out for the establishment of rival banks. We would, therefore, propose that no new bank should be allowed to pay an annual dividend of more than 5 per cent., until it has been established three years, and that afterwards the dividend should not exceed 10 per cent. Any surplus funds would then accumulate as a reserve to meet unforeseen losses; or, if the bank continued prosperous, and the reserve had reached in amount one-third of the paid-up capital, it might then be allowed to pay any dividend under 15 per cent., and so on under 20 per cent., should the reserve accumulate to one-half of the paid-up capital, thus increasing or falling in amount, according to the real prosperity of the bank. By this plan, the shareholders, although not receiving large dividends, would fully share in the prosperity of the bank, by the gradually increasing value of their shares.

Again, with regard to the amount a bank should keep in Government securities. I propose that every bank should be required to keep a certain fixed amount. The best regulated joint-stock banks, we are told, have usually one-fourth of their liabilities invested in this manner. The mere fact, then, of making it compulsory, would oblige many insolvent establishments to wind up before every guinea was gone from the till.

Finally, I would suggest for the greater security of depositors, that one of the two auditors chosen half-yearly to audit the affairs of the bank should be chosen by them, the other, as before, by the shareholders. The amount which should entitle a depositor to vote might be easily regulated.

Joint-stock, as compared with private banks, are yet in their infancy; and there is no doubt many improvements can be made, both in their formation and regulation. In aid of these I beg to submit the foregoing remarks to the attention of your readers.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

LELEX.

THE JOINT-STOCK BANKS AND THEIR GUARANTEE FUNDS.

SIR,—The valuable statistical table showing the quinquennial progress of the principal London Joint-Stock Banks published in your last number, discloses some remarkable features, especially with respect to the increase of the current liabilities, the decrease of the ratio of the guarantee fund to such liabilities, together with the enormous increase of the rate of dividend.

In the year 1847 the proportion of the guarantee fund of the London and Westminster Bank to the current liabilities was nearly 3¾ per cent., with dividend at 6 per cent. per annum; in the year 1852 the proportion was nearly 2 per cent., with dividend at 8 per cent; in the year 1857 the proportion was 1¼ per cent. only, with dividend at 16 per cent; the deposits in 1852 having increased 104 per cent. on the year 1847, and in 1857 above 370 per cent.

With reference to the London Joint-Stock Bank, it is also found that the proportion of guarantee fund in 1847 was 6¼ per cent., with dividend at 9¾ per cent.; in 1852 4 per cent., with dividend 9¼ per cent.; in 1857 1¾ per cent. only, with dividend at 22½ per cent.; the deposits in 1852 having increased 82 per cent. on the year 1847, and in 1857 above 440 per per cent!

It appears from the analysis thus presented, that while the deposits have been increasing in a rapid ratio, the guarantee or reserved fund has been decreasing in an inverse proportion. Can this be considered adopting sound banking principles, diminishing the guarantee fund as the liabilities increase, for the sake of declaring enormous dividends? And is either 1½, 1¾, or 1⅞ per cent. of the current liabilities, amounting in the aggregate to many millions sterling, an adequate reserved fund to meet all contingencies?

I am, sir, yours obediently,

INVESTIGATOR.

March 8th.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.—BANK OF ENGLAND PRACTICES.

SIR,—Perhaps Mr. "A. M. R.," who writes from "Threadneedle-street" in your March number, will be kind enough to inform me how it happens that a country banker *does not get credit* for any cheque he may send to a branch of the Bank of England, until he writes to his London agent, requesting him to call for the amount. This fact (which I have tested this week), proves that your previous correspondent, "A Subscriber," is not in error, and that the Bank of England adopts a different course to all other banks.

Yours obediently,

March 9th A BANKER'S CLERK.

SIR,—Your correspondent "A. M. R." on the subject of "Bank of England Practices," says, I believe correctly, that in paying over for cheques remitted to the Bank's branches the amount is placed to the credit of the agent of the party remitting the cheque.

But we find that when we so remit cheques we are obliged to inform our agents, that on their finding a certain sum in their account at the Bank they may conclude it is ours, for I understand no particulars are given with the payment, and unless claimed the agent is at a loss to say to whom the payment belongs.

Now this seems an absurd system, and, if correct, should be reformed; for I do not see why the Bank should not do as they are done by. We find, too, that on receiving a cheque from the Bank's branches for payment in London they are exceedingly particular in requesting that payment be made to a certain office to a certain account, &c.

There is another to me equally absurd system, viz., that pursued by Irish and Scotch banks in paying over. I should have said there is no system, for we find that many do not pay over at all, remitting a draft on London, less exchange, in lieu of a cheque received. Others deduct a commission and pay over, &c., &c., in fact the systems are various, of course necessitating cross entries and other inconveniences.

Now why should not an uniform system be adopted? I always understood the Scotch and Irish bankers did not recognise the word *commission*. Why should not English bankers charge in paying over?

Perhaps some of your correspondents will inform me.

Yours, &c.,

16*th March*, 1858. A SUBSCRIBER.

WHEN CASHIER OVERDRAWING GUILTY OF LARCENY.

SIR,—By replying in your next number to the following question, you will much oblige

Your obedient servant,
O. P. Q.

A cashier in a country bank having a current account slightly overdrawn absconds, leaving his cash nominally correct, a portion of it, however, being his own cheque for a considerablo amount, dated on the day of his absconding. Query—Would he be liable to prosecution for embezzlement (larceny). or must his employers treat the loss as a simple debt, in consideration of his being authorized as cashier to pay cheques drawn by customers of whom he himself is one?

[We think it would be left to the jury to decide whether the drawing the cheque was *bonâ fide*, or a mere sham to cloak a theft; and if the latter, of course the prosecution would succeed.]

London, 15th March, 1858.

CROSSED CHEQUES.

SIR,—Will you please to favour me with your opinion on the following? If a crossed cheque is presented for payment by a partner of the firm drawing the same, am I justified in paying it across the counter?

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
A BANKER'S CLERK.

[We think not. If the partner was not justified in obtaining cash for the cheque, we think the banker could not claim credit for the payment.]

SIR,—Will you oblige me in your next number with an opinion on the following point?

A, a customer of B (a banker), drew a cheque on B, payable to C or bearer, and crossed with the words "& Co." C paid the cheque away to D, another customer of B, who tendered the same to B, to be passed to the credit of his (D's) account.

Is B justified in refusing to receive the cheque except it come to him through another banker?

I am, sir, yours obediently,
A SUBSCRIBER.

4th March, 1858.

[We think B is bound to receive the cheque, and credit the amount to D. We know of no authority requiring two bankers to be employed in such a case.]

Notes of the Month.

SAVINGS-BANKS.—Another return on Savings-Banks shows that the gross total amount of principal money received from and interest paid and credited to the trustees of Savings-Banks and Friendly Societies (including interest)

on the 20th of November last year was £76,777,642; the amount of principal and interest money paid to the trustees, including surplus fund draughts, £39,576,928; the amount of money, principal and interest, due to the trustees by the Commissioners, £37,200,713, and the value of the securities held by the Commissioners on the 20th of November at the prices of the day, to provide the amount due from the Commissioners to the trustees on that day for principal and interest, £31,951,384. The stock held included £5,820,834 Consols, £3,141,710 Three per Cent. Reduced, £17,313,871 New Three per Cents., £31,900 New Two-and-a-Half per Cents. and £1,031,588 New Three per Cents. Ireland, besides £7,600,000 Exchequer-bills.

Mr. Peabody, the American Banker, and the late Crisis.—The *New York Times* publishes a letter from Mr. George Peabody, the American banker in London, dated Jan. 21, contradicting a report that, during the late financial crisis, the amount of bills which his house was under acceptance for, when assistance was obtained from the Bank of England, exceeded six millions sterling. "Had it been so," he says, "it would have been but just to place it in the same rank with the Borough Bank of Liverpool and Great Western of Scotland, and myself and partners pronounced as unworthy of confidence for the future." He gives the real facts of the case, and says that, about the 20th November, when the money panic was raging, and the prospects were appalling, his house considered it wise and prudent to adopt a course which would effectually protect its own credit and save many correspondents, who were unable to meet engagements by remittance, from inconvenience and loss. The acceptances of his house at that time were £2,310,000, and the application to the bank was for a loan, on good security, for £800,000, should so much be required. The application was acceded to; and, within a few weeks after, the firm took £300,000 depositing securities of its own for the same. Up to that time the firm had taken no more than £300,000, although the securities deposited amounted to a much larger sum; and since that time the house had paid more than £1,500,000 of the £2,300,000 acceptances out. The losses on the acceptances above stated would be comparatively trifling.

The late Mr. Thomas Tooke.—We have to record the death of Mr. Tooke, the venerable author of the "History of Prices," and in many respects for a long period the chief of living economists. Mr. Tooke died at his residence, 31, Spring-gardens, early on the morning of the 26th February. Mr. Tooke's age was within a few days of the completion of his 85th year. The death of his second son, Mr. Thomas Tooke, junior (one of the directors of the Bank of England), at the close of December, may be regarded as the more immediate cause of the event we now record. For a long period, in the early part of his life, Mr. Tooke was the leading partner in one of the largest houses engaged in the Russian trade.

The Estate of Mr. Edward Oliver.—A report of the winding up of the estate of Mr. Edward Oliver, the Liverpool shipowner who failed, in 1854, for more than a million, shortly after a testimonial of plate had been presented to him for his services to commerce, has just been issued, and is a document worth notice. Some of the largest losses of the Royal British Bank arose out of the operations of Mr. Oliver, and the Liverpool Borough Bank was likewise fatally mixed up with his affairs. When he stopped he was, of course, to pay every one in full, and to have a large surplus; and upon a doubt being expressed whether this anticipation could be entirely relied upon, a protest signed by several leading houses—one of which suspended in the late crisis, paying 2s. in the pound — was posted on the Liverpool Exchange, boldly affirming it to be false and mischievous. As these gentlemen had every opportunity of knowing the real state of the case, of course nothing could be said in reply. Time only could settle the question, and three years and a half having elapsed, we have now the facts for judgment. Mr. Oliver, at the time of his suspension, valued his ships at £588,600, but the trustees of his estate report that even on entering upon their duties they were at once aware of the

utter fallacy of this estimate. Ultimately it was resolved to sell them to the holders of Mr. Oliver's acceptances, receiving these acceptances in payment at the rate of 10s. in the pound, the purchasers undertaking if the dividend on the estate should not equal that amount to repay the deficiency with interest. In this way sales were effected for an aggregate of £146,122. The bills of exchange on hand and debts to the estate were both found, when they came to be realised, to have been erroneously represented. Meanwhile some of the creditors resolved to make use of the terrors of the Bankruptcy Court so as to get paid in full. The larger creditors, knowing that under that administration such assets as remained would be altogether jeopardised, and having at the same time, it may be presumed, no desire for publicity, raised a fund to buy them off. The estate was benefited by the Russian war, a profit of £35,985 having been made as freight upon transports; but some American insurance offices, from whom large sums are due, not only neglected to pay, but refuse to furnish even an account. The result is, that in addition to the first dividend of 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound in October, 1855, and the second of 2s. in the year following, a third, to the amount of 6*d.*, has now been realised, which will make the total distribution 5*s.* A few uncollected items still remain; but they are mostly in litigation, and at the best are not expected to bring in an additional 3*d.* in the pound.

Forged Letters of Credit.—Two months back it was mentioned that a plot was in progress at Sydney to obtain advances from the banks at that place on forged letters of credit purporting to be from Messrs. Baring. In that case the assumed name of the imposter was F. A. di Miranda. It now appears that a similar attempt has been made at Melbourne by a person styling himself Lionel Levey, the forged letter purporting to be from Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Smiths, upon whom he has given bills for £2,000.

Mr. Willich's *Annual Tithe Commutation Tables*, for 1858, have just been issued. The general result, as produced by the improving septennial averages, which for the current year shows an increase of nearly 6 per cent., with reference to the basis on which the Tithe Commutation was made, has already been stated. The following information as to the average price of wheat, barley, and oats, as well for the year as for the quarters of 1857, is given for the benefit of agriculturists who may have let their land at corn rents:—

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*
Lady-day quarter, 1857 ...	...56 10	45 8	23 5
Midsummer	...56 9	42 6	24 9
Michaelmas	...59 11	40 2	27 3
Christmas	...52 0	40 1	24 7
	235 6	168 5	100 0
Average for the year 1857 ...	56 4	42 1	25 0

Privilege of the Electric Telegraph.—A curious question respecting the definition of privileged communications came before the Dublin Court of Bankruptcy on the 7th February, in the case of Michael Tobyn, a bankrupt. Counsel for the assignees proposed to examine Mr. Rudell, manager of the International Telegraph Company, as to certain messages which had passed between Liverpool and Dublin. Mr. Rudell, on behalf of the company, stated that he had brought down the messages pursuant to the subpœna, but that the company considered the documents were privileged, and that he was not bound to disclose them except by order of the Court. Judge Plunket ruled that it was the privilege of the sender, and not of the company, to withhold the messages. The messages were then produced, and the examination was proceeded with.

CURTAILING CREDIT.—At a meeting of wool dealers at Bradford on the 26th January, the Mayor in the chair, it was resolved to shorten the credit given in the trade from five to three months, and the co-operation was requested of spinners and manufacturers.

THE "EAST" INDIA COMPANY.—The receipts of the Home Treasury of the "East" India Company from the 1st January to the 30th April, 1858, are estimated at £5,156,023, and the disbursements at £4,296,065, leaving a balance in favour of £859,958. The disbursements for the year ending April 30th, 1859, are estimated at £11,186,026, being—for Indian railways, £2,511,093; payments to Government £1,474,711; annuities, &c., payable in England £1,403,480; stores and transport, £1,099,442; loan from the Bank of England, repayable 1st October next, £1,000,000; *minimum* amount required to be held in cash, £1,000,000; dividends and interest, £980,000; bonds notified for discharge, £653,900; general charges, £595,800; amount repayable to security fund, £315,000; and bills of exchange homeward, &c., £152,600. To meet these disbursements there will be available £2,500,000; from Indian railway companies, £120,000; from Government for supplies, a like sum from bills of exchange on India, and the estimated balance in hand, amounting in all to £3,599,958, and leaving a deficiency of £7,586,068.

THE ESTATE OF MR. VINCENT SCULLY.—The King Williamstown estate of Mr. Vincent Scully has been purchased by private contract, out of the Encumbered Estates Court, for £9,500. The lands comprise the model farm and the village of King Williamstown, with all the Government improvements, which had been some time since sold by the Crown.

SAVINGS BANKS.—In the House of Commons, on the 9th February, on the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it was agreed that the Acts relating to savings banks and their operations should be referred to a select committee.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—It is stated that nearly 150 cases of compromise with shareholders have been agreed to by Mr. Harding, the official manager of the Court of Chancery, and the representatives of the creditors. These compromises are to be submitted to Vice-Chancellor Kindersley for approval, and the creditors may anticipate speedily a further dividend of 3*s.* or 4*s.* in the pound.

SAVINGS BANK, SEKFORDE-STREET, CLERKENWELL.—The annual meeting of the patrons and governors was held on the 28th January, and the accounts of the past year presented. The year's proceedings showed an increase of business in all its divisions. There were more deposits received and more repayments made than in any former year; more accounts were open at the close of the year, and there was a large increase in the number of small accounts. Notwithstanding the commercial depressions of the year, the sum of the deposits was only £4,011 less than the year commenced with, a fact which speaks well for the circumstances of the depositors. The increase in the capital of the past five years compared with the five preceding them was £48,800 per annum. The auditors' report was full of satisfactory details, and was ordered to be printed and distributed with the accounts.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE. — The public income of the United Kingdom for the year 1857 (ended on the 31st December) amounted to £70,390,343, and the public expenditure to £70,354,245, leaving a trifling balance of £36,097. Customs yielded £22,464,353; excise, £17,472,000; stamps, £7,269,223; taxes (land and assessed), £3,104,020; the income—or, as the official papers persist in calling it, the "property"—tax, £15,137,996; post-office, £2,992,000; and Crown lands, £273,654. As much as £1,677,095 accrued from unclaimed dividends. The interest and management of the public debt entailed a charge of £28,683,383; the consolidated fund, £2,933,868; and the supply services, £36,736,993; including £13,616,556 for the army,

£10,390,000 for the navy, £6,905,456 for miscellaneous civil services, and £4,334,287 for salaries, &c., of revenue departments. The balances in the English and Irish Exchequer at the close of the year amounted together to the sum of £6,879,658.

Savings Banks Statistics.— It appears, from a parliamentary document recently issued, that in the United Kingdom in the year 1856, the total number of officers of all savings banks was 618 unpaid and 1,261 paid; the amount of security given, £373,370 by the unpaid officers, and £354,060 by the paid; the salaries, &c., of the paid officers £86,451, the annual expenses of management beyond salaries and payments £117,956; the number of accounts open on the 20th November, 1856, 1,331,369; the total amount owing to depositors on that day, £34,760,933 (of which nearly all was invested with the Public Debt Commmissioners); the balances remaining in the hands of treasurers amounting only to £282,070. The average rate of interest paid on the deposits was £2 18*s.* 8*d.* per cent. The amount of the separate "surplus fund" in the hands of the commissioners on the 20th November, 1856, was £342,716; the total number of annuities granted from the commencement 10,843, and the amount thereof £185,515; the rate per cent. on the capitals of the banks for management at the 20th November, 1856, 6*s.* 9*d.* (average); the number of payments to depositors in the year ended 20th November, 1856, 791,762, and the number of receipts from depositors 1,543,762. The average amount of receipts from depositors was £5 0*s.* 1*d.*, and the average amount of payments thereto £10 1*s.* 8*d.*

More of the Tipperary Bank Frauds.—On the 15th February, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland gave judgment in the cause of Wheatley against Sadleir. It was a petition filed by Mr. John Sherwood Wheatley, the brother and one of the trustees of Mrs. James Sadleir's marriage settlement, against Mr. Clement Sadleir, his co-trustee, and also against the official manager of the Tipperary Joint-stock Bank, to recover the sum of £10,000, the amount of Mrs. Sadleir's fortune, which was alledged to have been lost by the failure of the bank. The case of Mr. Wheatley was, that the sum of £10,000 was sent from London, through Glyn's bank, in two sums of £7,000 and £3,000, to the Tipperary Joint-stock Bank in 1843, and was to have been invested in landed property for the benefit of his sister, but that instead of its being so invested it was drawn out of the bank by John and James Sadleir under deposit receipts endorsed by the respondent, Clement Sadleir, alone, and that therefore he was liable to make good the loss sustained; and that the assets of the bank were also liable under the circumstances, as they were not justified in paying out money so placed in their hands without an accountable receipt from both trustees. The Chancellor, in giving judgment, said that a plain, gross, and palpable fraud had been committed by the bank with regard to the sum of £10,000. The case was, in his mind, free from all difficulty; and upon the point raised in relation to the Statute of Limitations, he had no doubt, where a transaction was attended with fraud and misrepresentation, as the present manifestly was, the statute could not begin to apply until after the discovery of the fraud. This, as he said, was a gross fraud committed by the bank through its officers. It was the common fraud of James Sadleir, James Sculley, and the bank, although all may have been innocent, to a certain extent, but James Sadleir. This gross fraud committed by the bank officers was concealed by them, by suppressing books, and concocting documents from Mrs. Sadleir and her brother, the petitioner; and such being the case, it would be hard if she was to be allowed to suffer—it would, in fact, be a reproach to a civilised country if such a fraud was not to be defeated. He (the Chancellor) had no difficulty in defeating it, and he would, therefore, make a decree against the official manager of the bank, with costs, in favour of the petitioner. He could not fasten any special liability upon Mr. Clement Sadleir; but in making his order, he would do so without prejudice to Mrs. Sadleir proceeding against him and Mr. Wheatley hereafter, if so advised.

MESSRS. PLUMMER AND CO'S. ESTATE.—At Newcastle, recently, a large meeting was held of the creditors of Messrs. Matthew Plummer and Co. and Messrs. Clarke, Plummer and Co., who suspended on the 19th of January, and full statements of the affairs of those firms, prepared by Mr. Joseph Miller, accountant, were submitted. From these it appeared that the estate of Clarke, Plummer and Co. showed liabilities for £35,861, and assets to leave a surplus of £3,328, besides £36,558 on their private estate; while that of Matthew Plummer and Co. showed liabilities for £26,816, and assets for £18,148, leaving a deficiency of £8,666. The result, therefore, on the two estates is a net surplus of £31,220. It was stated that Mr. Robert Plummer, who was the sole surviving representative of both firms, placed himself entirely in the hands of the meeting, but wished to submit that the interests of all parties would be best served if the affairs of both firms were wound up under inspection. Resolutions to that effect were unanimously adopted, and there is a probability of the inspectors being enabled to pay a first dividend of 4*s*. in the pound immediately on the execution of the deed of inspection.

DAYS OF GRACE.—It appears that a Bill introduced by Lord St. Leonards to amend the law of property, and which is to be referred to a committee, proposes, among other things, effectually to settle the question as to the legal force of the days of grace allowed by assurance offices for the payment of premiums. Lord St. Leonards does not think the public should be left to depend upon the mere verbal promise of directors that they would never take advantage of any technicality on the point: he has "lived long enough never to trust any directors," and therefore desires to put an end to all doubt by making the days of grace imperative, just as if those days had been mentioned in the original policy.

BANK OF ROME.—The privileges accorded to the Bank of Rome are stated to have been extended for 10 years. The dividend for the past year was at the rate of 9½ per cent.

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

Feb. 27.—Announcement made of the suspension of the house of the widow of Marc Prudel and Co., of Marseilles, engaged in the South American trade.

March 13.—Satisfactory settlement of the misunderstanding between England and France, relative to the refugees.

13.—The Bank Directors announce their intention of refusing, in future, to discount for the discount brokers.

17.—The rate of discount at Hamburg advanced from 1½ to 2 percent.

17.—Suspension announced of Mr. A. R. Lefone, of Liverpool, engaged in the River Plate trade, with liabilities reaching to about £200,000.

17.—Messrs. Oak and Snow, of Blandford, bankers, whose suspension was announced last month, were declared bankrupts.

23.—The rate of discount at Hamburg advanced from 2 to 2½ per cent.

24.—Suspension announced of Mr. H. P. Maples, ship and insurance broker.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

THE following are the principal mercantile suspensions since our last issue:—

Feb.—Messrs. Prudell and Co., Marseilles, South American trade.

March.—Mr. A. R. Lafone, Liverpool, River Plate trade.

Mr. H. P. Maples, London, ship and insurance broker.

Reviews.

Statistical Book-keeping; being a simplification and abbreviation of the common system by double entry, for the use of merchants, bankers, tradesmen, manufacturers, ship-owners, farmers, householders, and others; together with suggestions for the prevention of defalcations and frauds in banks, railway companies, and other concerns. By FREDERICK CHARLES KREPF. London: Longman and Co. 1858.

THIS is not only an original but an elaborate treatise on the system of keeping accounts analytically as well as statistically, and contains much valuable information for those already practically acquainted with book-keeping by double entry. There is no one subject of more vital importance to the commercial community than a correct system of book-keeping; and as the author states in his preface, that the statistical system "judiciously applied to mercantile accounts will be found of great importance in keeping resources together during times of commercial depression, and weathering such storms as occasionally arise in the mercantile world." It will be admitted that the recording of mercantile transactions may be conducted in the most elaborate and complicated manner by the use of a multiplicity of books, and yet be altogether divested of any system which would enable the merchant or manufacturer to arrive at any other than the aggregate result, either so much profit or loss, as the case may be, without much labour and tedious investigation; but, by the adoption of the statistical system, it enables principals to ascertain, not only the results, but the causes of such, exhibiting minutely and analytically every gradation of the transactions, of whatever nature, for any period. There is one defect in the system of accounts keeping in many mercantile houses, that the books in which the original entries are made are used only for the purpose of recording the transactions, and not made available for any other purpose, so that results cannot be ascertained without considerable re-writing and arrangement in other books, by which there is much waste of time and labour as well as probability of error. By the statistical system, not only are the transactions accurately entered in a book, but the same book is also, by the arrangement, made subservient for other purposes, in many instances, without any additional labour. One of the most essential points is not only to ascertain results in the aggregate, but to develope also the causes and the progress of such, whether for a short or lengthened period. It is believed, that if many merchants had before them periodically the enormous transactions into which they have entered, and the extent of their liabilities, upon, in too many instances, but very limited capital, we should not have experienced such a crisis as that lately witnessed. As the author truly states—"Book-keeping is a matter of the greatest importance, as through its medium alone a merchant can ascertain whether he is prosperous in his affairs or otherwise. If the causes of the failures could be correctly traced, no doubt a large proportion would be found owing to a defective way of recording transactions having given rise to extravagance, defalcations, reckless speculations, or otherwise led to ruin." We cordially recommend the statistical system to the commercial community, as well as to experienced book-keepers,

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The Life of William Paterson, the founder of the Bank of England. By S. BANNISTER, M.A., formerly Attorney-General of New South Wales. W. P. Nimmo, Edinburgh.

A VERY interesting volume of the life and trials of William Paterson, the

founder of the Bank of England, has just been issued. In addition to the opinions of Mr. Paterson, which at the present time will prove of considerable value to all connected with banking and mercantile transactions much will be found to attract the attention of the general reader. The sources from which the information is derived appears to be unexceptionable, and Mr. Bannister has employed them to great advantage.

The Bank Act. What it is and what it does, and the laws which regulate the price of money briefly explained. By JOHN INCHBALD, of the Stock Exchange. Effingham and Wilson, Royal Exchange.

A NEAT little pamphlet on the general subject, and one which affords a clear insight to the operation of the Act. It is satisfactory to find that the writer, while upholding the principle of the bill of 1844, does not close his eyes to the necessity of some relaxing power which shall give relief in periods of excessive pressure like that recently witnessed,

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1858.

THE events of March, either in a financial or mercantile point of view, have not been important. The announcement of the Indian loan under the terms of the act passed for empowering the East India Company to raise money in this country, has not occasioned much excitement; but notwithstanding objections have been made to the form in which the proposal for £5,000,000 has been brought forward, it is still thought that the whole amount will be subscribed. Through the arrivals of specie from Australia and America, the increase to the Bank's stock of bullion has been considerable, and it has now reached the large total of £18,733,815. From the latter point little more for the present is expected, the rate of exchange having taken an adverse direction. Other supplies are, however, anticipated, particularly from the West Indies, and hence a further increase is not at all improbable, especially as few purchases are now made for the Continent, and the shipments of silver to the East have undergone a large diminution. The Bank *minimum* is still maintained at 3 per cent., but there appears every expectation that a reduction to 2½ per cent. will before long be accomplished.

The operations in English securities during the month have not been extensive, and the range in prices has scarcely exceeded 1 per cent. Towards the close the appearance of the market was better, and quotations are a shade higher than at the commencement of the period when our usual comparison is made. The investment of the Government brokers, both on account of the Crimean Sinking Fund and the Savings Banks Commissioners, have increased the strength of the market, and notwithstanding the appearance of the Indian loan, prices have been fairly supported. Exchequer bills and Indian bonds have not been so firm through a few speculative sales. The value of money has not ranged beyond 1½ to 2 per cent. on the deposit of Consols.

Foreign stocks have fluctuated from about 1 to 2 per cent., and the dealings, although not large, show some slight improvement. Turkish, Russian, and Spanish have suffered a slight variation, but, on the whole, there is no important change to notice. Peruvian has advanced on purchases

for the sinking fund, and Spanish is also rather better; but little speculative activity is apparent. The adjustment of the recent half-monthly accounts has passed over without difficulty, and the rates of continuation have been very light.

A severe depreciation has occurred in most descriptions of railway shares. This has arisen from the decrease in the traffic receipts, and the apprehension that the effect may be prejudicial upon the next dividend. A favourable change in the weather, together with a steady revival in trade, would of course counteract the influence of the late alteration. At present there are some symptoms of recovery in this respect, but they will require a more marked development than has hitherto been apparent to create a permanent rally. Caledonian, Lancashire, and Yorkshire, and one or two other descriptions, have receded to the extent of from three to seven per cent. French and Indian have been steady, though there is still an indisposition to enter into extensive engagements.

The following are the fluctuations in English and Foreign Stocks, and Railway Shares, during the month just concluded :—

	Price on Feb. 25.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Mar. 26.
ENGLISH FUNDS.				
Consols	97¼-97¼	97⅜	96½	97⅜
Exchequer bills	31*s.* to 37*s.* pm.	42*s.* pm.	31*s.* p.m.	36*s.* pm.
FOREIGN STOCKS.				
Brazilian	--	104	103⅝	104½
Buenos Ayres	81⅜	81⅜	79½	80½
Chilian	106	106¼	105	106¼
Dutch, 2½ per cent.	65½	66¼	65½	65½
Mexican	20⅜	20½	19⅞	19⅞
Peruvian, 4½ per cent.	83½	83½	80x.d.	82¼-3x d
Russian	111	111½	108¼x.d.	110⅜
Spanish	44½	44⅜	44	44¼-3
Turkish, 6 per cent.	102¼	102⅜	100⅜	102¼
Ditto, 4 per cent.	104⅜	104½	103¾	104
RAILWAY SHARES.				
Brighton	108	108½	104½	106
Caledonian	96¾	97⅜	86x.d.	88 ex.d.
Eastern Counties	63½	64¼	57½	58½
Great Northern	107⅜	108	101x.d.	104
Great Western	62	62⅜	57½x.d.	58½
Lancashire and Yorkshire... ...	96	97	88⅜	89
London and North Western ...	101¾	102⅝	95	95½
Midland	101½	102½	96	96½
North Staffordshire	14	14¼	13¼	13¼
South Eastern	75¼	75⅞	68¼	69½
South Western	98¼	99	90x.d.	92½
York, Newcastle, and Berwick ...	98½	99½	90	92
York and North Midland	83⅜	84	73	75
East Indian...	111	111½	107½	110½
Northern of France	38¼	38⅝	37⅜	38¼

THE GRAIN TRADE.

THE weather during the past month has been exceedingly favourable for agricultural pursuits, and equally propitious for vegetation. The early

sown crops are described throughout the country as looking remarkably well and healthy. Notwithstanding that farmers have been fully occupied in the fields, the quantity of every description of grain on offer at the various markets has been more than sufficient to meet the demand. In the early part of March prices had an upward tendency, but towards the close the advance was not maintained, and lower quotations were general.

The *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been :—

Week ending 1858.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
Feb. 20	88,810 ...	44 6 ...	47 0 ...	1 0 ...	57 6
„ 27	92,431 ...	45 0 ...	46 4 ...	1 0 ...	56 10
March 6	102,544 ...	45 6 ...	45 10 ...	1 0 ...	56 3
„ 13	101,172 ...	45 3 ...	45 5 ...	1 0 ...	55 10
„ 20	113,805 ...	45 6 ...	45 3 ...	1 0 ...	55 9

The importations since the harvest of 1857 have been :—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total Qrs.
Thirty weeks ended 10th February ...	2,347,490	2,305,421	4,552,911
Five weeks ended 17th March ...	274,642	166,308	440,950
	2,622,132	2,371,729	4,993,861
And the *weekly averages* have been :—			
Thirty weeks ended 10th February ...	78,000	73,000	151,000
Four weeks ended 17th March ...	55,000	33,000	88,000
Less	23,000	40,000	63,000

THE STATE OF TRADE.

The operations in the manufacturing districts have not been extensive, but they indicate a more settled appearance of business. Although money is abundant and cheap, confidence has not sufficiently revived to stimulate activity; and some time will have to elapse before a full return to prosperity can be anticipated.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

There are still some arrears of matter, which a double number next month, it is hoped, will clear off. Correspondents and others will please to remember that letters for insertion should, unless of an urgent nature, be forwarded by the 20th of the month. All communications should be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

Senex.—The question is one which shall be answered privately.

Original Proprietor.—Much as the matter has been discussed, it yet remains doubtful whether the end will be accomplished.

X. Y. Z.—Certainly a significant suggestion, and one that shall have due consideration.

Cashier.—The shareholder is undoubtedly liable; and under the Winding-up Act payment can be enforced.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE;

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

MAY, 1858.

SHOULD BREWERS BE BANKERS.

When the wants which from time to time grow out of our social condition are suffered to remain for any long period unsupported by legitimate means, the almost inevitable consequence is, that attempts are made to mitigate the inconvenience, by indirect and illicit courses; the evils of which are apt long to outlive the introduction of systematic business, and regular order. With the expansion of commerce and the multiplication of mercantile transactions, the demand for those facilities which are afforded under the ordinary term "banking accommodation," and which comprise opportunities for the safe custody of surplus capital and floating balances and for converting into cash for immediate purposes assets not otherwise immediately available—and last, but not least, the creation in some form or other of a credit currency, become more urgent and imperative. In our own country those facilities have long been in existence. The large capitalist, the merchant, and the manufacturer, whose transactions are measured by thousands and hundreds of thousands, have them at command to the fullest extent; but for the trader of more humble means, whose operations are counted by a few hundreds a year, until recently no such advantages were obtainable. To him the doors of the banking house were practically closed, and banking accommodation, either for the purpose of deposit or advance, was altogether denied to him by the regular banking institutions.

As a natural consequence, people of this class were compelled to look elsewhere for that assistance which those whose business it was to afford it refused. In the ordinary course of their trade they would necessarily have occasional floating balances, unemployed capital, or accumulated profits, for which they had no immediate requirement, and for which, though the amount

might be small, they would naturally be desirous of depositing in a place of safety, where it would be readily available when demanded, and where it would in the meanwhile be earning something in the shape of interest, without being subjected to those variations and inconveniences which investments in public securities for temporary purposes are liable.

In some instances, the wholesale dealers and large manufacturers, whose status and reputed opulence inspired confidence, were in the habit of receiving deposits from their customers at a fixed rate of interest, and under certain reasonable conditions in regard to notice of repayment. To a certain extent this met the evil, in so far as providing a bank of deposit. But these unlicensed banks, many of which in the provincial towns still exist, are open to many objections. Beyond the reputed wealth of some single individual, they give no security to the parties whose money they undertake the care of, and examples are not wanting—one in a midland county, within a year or so, is still fresh in the memory—to show that the money so deposited is sometimes dissipated in the wildest of speculations, or in the attempt to keep up those outward appearances of unbounded wealth, and to uphold that fictitious credit which formed the basis of misplaced public confidence.

There is, in the metropolis, one trade, in which this mode of surreptitious banking is reduced to a system. The great London porter brewers, who are well known to be amongst the largest capitalists in the mercantile world, and from that circumstance command all but a monopoly of a very lucrative manufacture, have established themselves as the regular bankers of the publicans, their customers. They receive money on deposit—and they make advances on securities—and these two principal functions of the banker they adapt with singular facility and precision to the expansion of their brewing trade, and the enhancement of their power as monopolists.

The *modus operandi* of this superadded branch of business is simple. A publican, or a retired gentleman's servant—that being the class from which the licensed victuallers are generally recruited—having £50 or £100 of his own, sees a public house which he thinks will suit him, but the in-coming of which for goodwill, lease, fixtures, and trade utensils, will require perhaps from £800 to £1,000. He obtains an introduction to Barclay's, Whitbread's, Calvert's, or some other of the great London brewing firms; and they, being satisfied of the trading capabilities of the house, and the business qualities of the man, at once advance the £700, £800 or £900 required to make up the difference between the amount the applicant has in hand and the sum-total

of the purchase money—but upon the condition that the borrower shall sell their beer and no other, and taking as a security a mortgage of the lease and a bill of sale upon the rest of the property—thus retaining to themselves the power of calling in the loan at any moment, should the condition as to the supply of beer be infringed. Were the capital out of which these advances are made the property of the lenders, there could be no sustainable objection advanced against the practice; but that is not the case. The money which they lend to one set of customers they borrow of another—but on terms much more favourable to themselves, as regards security, than those they exact from their debtors. The principle of their banking transactions is this: "We will take your money and pay you 5 per cent. per annum interest, or we will lend you money and charge you 5 per cent. per annum," but in the one case they take a security available at any moment, accompanied by a condition which ensures them a large profit beyond the rate of interest—while in the other they simply give an acknowledgment for the amount of the deposit or loan, the value of which must depend upon the continued credit and solvency of the house. The moneyed reputation of the old-established London brewing firms, and the fixed rate of interest they, under all circumstances, allow, naturally attract these deposits. A cash deposit at his brewers' is regarded by the publican as the safest as well as the most profitable mode of investing his savings, or his trade capital, when temporarily out of business; and so great is his confidence in the stability of these leviathan establishments, that he looks upon the acceptance of the money by the brewer as an exclusive privilege pertaining to the licensed victuallers' calling; and when friendly societies are held at public houses, it is no uncommon practice for the landlord to use his influence to induce the firm by whom he is supplied with beer or spirits to take, as a favour, their balances on deposit on the same terms as his own unemployed cash.

It would be difficult, in the absence of data which the parties themselves alone could furnish, to estimate even approximately the average amount of capital belonging to other parties which is thus at all times lying in their hands in the shape of deposits from customers. That it is very considerable, those who are acquainted with the speculative character of the licensed victuallers as a body, their constant changes from one house to another, and who take into account that it is almost the unvarying custom of the trade, in the interval between the letting of one house and the taking of another, to lodge the capital thus thrown temporarily out of employment in the

brewers' hands, will readily understand. Some slight idea of the aggregate may be gathered perhaps from the statement which has been currently made that the liabilities of the Messrs. Calverts to customers on account of deposits at interest is something like half a million, theirs being by no means the most extensive of the eight or nine great brewery firms which belong to the metropolis; added to which, it must be remembered that the same system is pursued almost as extensively by the leading distillers.

That brewer-banking is a safe, and, provided the brewing part of the business is well managed, a profitable system of money dealing, is pretty obvious. But its chief value with those who follow it unquestionably is the additional power it brings to the aid of their monopoly. The objections to it are, that it is banking outside the pale of the law, and without those safeguards and wholesome restraints which the law has imposed for the security of the customer. Previous to the establishment of the joint-stock banks, and when the additional facilities they introduced were unknown, a system which afforded to those who could not obtain banking accommodation elsewhere, necessarily commanded a large measure of success; and, having regard to the certain rate of interest allowed and the readiness with which advances are made, under circumstances and upon terms which render competition on the part of the ordinary banking institutions impossible—nothing less than the failure of one or more of the great brewers to meet their engagements will be likely to shake the prestige which they have acquired. The difficulties which have recently beset the old-established and respectable house of Calvert and Co., and which must have already occasioned serious inconvenience to many of their customers who had entrusted money in their hands, may probably have some effect in weakening the confidence of the public and of the licensed victuallers in particular, in the financial infallibility of these overgrown establishments. But, whatever may be the result in that respect, if brewers and distillers are to be allowed to trade as bankers, it is surely due to the public—and to those against whom they are competing for banking business—that they should be placed under the same legal restrictions and subjected to the same requirements in respect to license, publication of periodical accounts, names of partners, &c., as the other banking firms and banking companies of the kingdom.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COUNTRY.

It has rarely occurred that a Chancellor of the Exchequer has presented for the consideration of the House of Commons a budget so free from objection as that which Mr. Disraeli laid before them on the 19th ultimo. With heavy liabilities remaining over from the Russian war, and which, under arrangement, were to be discharged this year; with naval and military establishments maintained upon a war footing in point of expense, and with the civil charges of Government increasing year by year, and with a revenue which, if not absolutely stationary, was certainly not progressing in proportion to these heavy demands upon it, the country had begun to look forward to the possibility of being called upon to submit to a serious addition to its existing fiscal burdens. It was well known that the estimate of the receipts and expenditure of the current year, including liabilities brought forward from past years, must exhibit an adverse balance to the extent of some millions, and it could scarcely be expected, nor was it to be desired, that the finance minister should resort to the expedient of a loan to meet a deficiency which, through the consequence of debts incurred during a war, really arose at a period of peace. Under these circumstances, few people would have been surprised had the Government proposed some slight and temporary addition to the property tax, and the opinion was almost general, that the financial scheme for the year would embrace a proposition for inverting the downward progress of that impost from the seven pence to the five pence in the pound. When, therefore, Mr. Disraeli announced that he did not intend to interfere with the operation of Mr. Gladstone's act of 1853, which has been so long the sport of untoward circumstances, he secured the success of his financial policy, and the approbation which this part of his scheme is certain in almost all quarters to command, will in all likelihood enable him to overcome objections which would otherwise be all potent against some of its other features.

It appears, that after reducing the army and navy estimates by £800,000 as compared with the calculations of their predecessors, the Government have put down £63,610,000 as the sum required for the service of the year, under the ordinary heads of expenditure. But beyond this there are, or rather were, liabilities upon the revenue of the year of £1,500,000 on account of the war sinking fund, and £2,000,000 to pay off Exchequer bonds which were issued, also towards meeting the charges of the Russian war, and which, according to the terms

of the act of Parliament, fall due in the current financial year. The total demand upon the Exchequer for the service of 1858-59, consequently reaches the sum of £67,110,000, against an estimated revenue of £63,120,000. But for reasons which, while the totals upon the opposite pages of the balance-sheet are so unfavourable, will probably be considered sufficient, the Chancellor of the Exchequer does not intend to bring either of the two items above-mentioned into charge at present. In the first place he says, that they are war arrears not properly belonging to the expenditure of the current year, and which (however right it might be to bring them forward, were there likely to be a surplus in the Exchequer) ought not to be allowed to stand in the account, when the receipts and the ordinary and indispensable outgoings show a balance adverse to the former. In reference to the sinking fund, he argues—and the argument savours of common sense—that while there is an active debt, like the Exchequer bonds, waiting to be paid off, and for which there are no means, it is absurd to think of paying it at all. And as to the bonds themselves, though, were there money in hand for the purpose, he admits that that engagement ought to be maintained, he wisely abstains from risking loss of popularity, by levying new taxes for paying off obligations, which are in no way prejudiced by being kept floating in the market as a first-class Government security, which they will always be for a year or two longer

Having thus brought down the total estimated expenditure of the year to £63,610,000, he proceeds to meet it in the following way:—He takes the receipts from the customs at £23,400,000, as against £23,300,000, which this important source of revenue produced last year. There is certainly no reason for supposing that there is any exaggeration in this estimate. The trade of the country is fast recovering from the depression which the monetary pressure of last autumn occasioned. Money is again plentiful and cheap. Eleven millions of taxation—nine in the last and two in the present year—of a character which undoubtedly does press heavily upon the energies of the people, and more or less discourages enterprise, whatever its advocates may say in its favour, have been removed; all the main articles of consumption have fallen considerably in price; and, in short, all circumstances seem to have combined, to develope the capabilities of a branch of the public income, which so largely depends upon the prosperity and consuming power of the people. Had, therefore, the finance minister put down this item at £500,000 more than he has done, unless some untoward contingency had happened—such as a bad harvest or a war—it

is probable that he would have been fully borne out by the result. There is equal justification for the increase he has put down as arising from the excise, viz., £18,100,000 as against £17,825,000, which was the actual receipt of last year, and upon the same grounds. The produce of the stamp duties—which must also depend very much upon the state of trade and the general prosperity of the country—is not even estimated at £7,550,000. Sir Cornewall Lewis calculated upon the same amount for the last year; but, to some extent, he was disappointed, the actual receipt having been only £7,416,000—the crisis of the latter end of 1857, no doubt, having operated prejudicially upon this as upon other branches of the public revenue. But this year there is, happily, no reason to anticipate difficulties of this kind; and seeing also that the succession duties will contribute to the augmentation of this asset, it is not unreasonable to look forward to something like a considerable surplus as between the estimate and the actual receipts. There is no great variation in the yield of the land and assessed taxes in one year as compared with another. Last year it was £3,150,000; and, in adding an extra £50,000 for the increased number of houses which may be expected to come into charge in the present year, Mr. Disraeli is, no doubt, pretty near the mark. £6,100,000 for income and property tax seems to be a full estimate, when we remember that the collection for the second half of the year will be at the reduced rate of five pence. In 1857-8 the Post Office produced £2,900,000; for the year 1858-9 the Chancellor of the Exchequer puts it down at £3,200,000, which, although he states that he has the highest authority for the correctness of the calculation, may be regarded as the very extreme limit. For the minor items, viz., £270,000 for Crown lands and £1,600,000 for those various and varying sources of income, which are classed under the general title of "Miscellaneous," the Government possess data for forming a judgment which are not so readily accessible to the public; and as they are responsible their estimate of the amount they are likely to contribute to the revenue of the country may be taken for granted. Thus we have made up, under these several heads, a grand total of £63,120,000 to set against a gross expenditure, including all charges and liabilities of £67,110,000, leaving an adverse balance of £3,990,000 or, in round numbers, £4,000,000.

Though a deficit is, at all times, a most disagreeable thing to contemplate, it is, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer remarks, in his explanatory statement, some consolation to know that it is in this instance not occasioned by any falling off in the revenue. Notwithstanding untoward circumstances which

characterised the close of the year 1857, and the severe check which the commerce and internal trade of the country sustained, the result of which upon the public revenue was a falling off to the extent of three quarters of a million in a single quarter as compared with the corresponding quarter of the previous year, in the following quarter the decrease had been more than counterbalanced, and the estimate of the total receipts of the year more than fulfilled, while the elasticity of the commerce of this country, its power to override all difficulties and all hindrances, is shown by the fact that both the exports and imports have risen as compared with the year immediately preceding the Russian war to an extent which "even at the close of that expensive conflict, few persons would have been sanguine enough to predict for the year 1857." It appears by the figures quoted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the gross exports having overcome the depression they met with between 1854 and 1856, have made a rebound, and stood according to the returns of the year ending 31st December, 1857, at £122,000,000 as against £99,000,000 in 1854; that the imports have risen from £143,000,000 in 1855, the year when the war was at its height, to £187,000,000 in 1857. In the main sources of revenue—Customs Excise, and Stamps, not only has there been no decrease, but an addition as compared with previous years, and that addition promises to go on increasing. The unfavourable balance owes its origin entirely to two causes:—first, to the loss of a million to the Exchequer occasioned by the reduction of twopence in the pound in the income and property tax, and, secondly, to the legacy of war liabilities which the present year has inherited. Were there a surplus instead of a deficit, it would be more than questionable whether the Government would be under any circumstances justified in not treating these liabilities as a first charge upon it, even at the cost of a further suspension of the first instalment of Mr. Gladstone's act. But, inasmuch as had the sevenpenny income tax been retained, there would still have been a deficiency, had these charges been brought into the account, and as it was certainly desirable to re-establish public confidence in the integrity of Parliamentary arrangements based upon absolute legislative acts, which the course that has been taken—and unavoidably taken, it must be admitted—upon this subject of the income tax had seriously impaired—those only who wish the principle of direct taxation to be carried out to its farthest limits can blame ministers for the course they have adopted.

But, taking the gross deficit at £4,000,000, there remains after throwing over the £3,500,000 of war liabilities, a balance of £500,000 as between the estimated revenue and expenditure

for the year to be provided for. A penny stamp upon bankers' cheques (an expedient which, it will be remembered, signally failed when brought forward three years ago), and an increase in the Irish spirit duties are the measures sought to be introduced to make up the margin. With regard to the latter of these two expedients, even the Irish spirit manufacturers themselves, if they understand their own interests, will hail it with delight. It is obvious that no more serious inpediment can exist to the development of any branch of domestic industry, than the levying of a differential duty upon its products, as between one part of the same country and another. The proposition of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, by equalising the duties on Irish and British spirits, will remove an obstacle which practically prevents Irish spirits from coming into free competition with those of England and Scotland. Except, therefore, as it may afford to a few Irish orators in Parliament, the opportunity of indulging in a patriotic speech denunciatory of British injustice, and British ingratitude, in not permitting Ireland to go tax free in return for the honour and glory of the connexion, there is but little chance of opposition to this part of the budget. The tax upon cheques stands upon a different footing. It is of great importance in a mercantile country like this, that as few artificial restrictions as possible should be placed upon the everyday currency by means of which commercial transactions are carried on. That the system of paying by cheques (which of late years has extended in a wonderful degree) has operated most beneficially in economising the ordinary currency, no one who has the slightest acquaintance with monetary transactions can for a moment doubt. How far the interposition of the Stamp Office, with a requirement that every cheque, however small the amount, shall bear a penny stamp, will interfere with that system, of course, can only be determined by the experiment, but that it will operate prejudicially, there is every reason to believe; and in reference to those small transactions for which cheques have hitherto been found to be so convenient a medium of payment, and so great a security against petty robberies, the practice must be either abandoned altogether, or the parties become liable to a severe and a most unequal tax.* With this exception, however, Mr. Disraeli's scheme of finance is an attractive one, and will be certain to be received with as much satisfaction by the country at large, as it was by the House of Commons.

* Since this article was prepared, the resolution for the imposition of the tax has been passed, and further contest is impossible. Should the act, however, be found detrimental, it can easily, on the representation of the banking interest, be repealed.

PATRONAGE OF FOREIGN ADVENTURES.

If a calculation could be made how much capital has been tran from English hands to those of foreigners, without the r equivalent or return, under the allurement of magnificent but fa representations, the result would probably show a sum capable of guishing the national debt twice over. The worst of all bubb those blown out of English credulity by foreign puffing, and after exhibiting their prismatic hues awhile to the native ga wafted to burst unseen on another soil, and fertilise it with w substantial sprinkling may ensue on their collapse. Enterpri charity, should begin at home; for if nothing be gained to th viduals interested in the venture, nothing is lost to the nation capital which should have returned into the hands of the English lator with due increase accomplishes only half the cycle, an labour without rewarding enterprise. But that labour is English The nation is benefited to some extent, and if there be any r patriotism amidst the disappointment of loss, the sufferer will utterly without consolation, and will still feel that the fertilising to which he has contributed is "twice blest," notwithstanding hi of the blessing is not to be worked out by figures. Moreover, i ventures there is this further advantage to be gathered in the failure—the experiment has been conducted for the most part known conditions and subject to immediate observation; and th be this sweet use in adversity—that an addition to the sum of p experience will have been made, furnishing a clear guide for operations. In all foreign adventure, on the other hand, failu result of ninety-nine cases out of a hundred—has no compe whatever. The loss is absolute, and doubly maleficent. Self- and national feeling are wounded by the same unkindest cut of a departed coin jingles in the fob of an alien, benefiting the original holder by no distant concatenation of causes—nay, rather th injury, whether by abetting peaceful rivalry or supplying sin war, when the enemy's cohorts might bear on their standard *Britannico.*'

These remarks are not uttered in any spirit of retrogade illib The growth and prosperity of other nations must ever be favour the development of our own. There is "a solidarity of the p to use the jargon of the Socialists, in matters of material welfar in those of political progress, and the resources and civilization country on the face of the globe cannot be increased without a pation in the beneficial results by every other, according to its relative advantages or general capacity for exchange. Were capital only forthcoming for the support of foreign enterprises wise and prudent spirit, there would be nothing valid to say such an employment of it, for then it would always be subordin the development of internal resources, and preceded by a search satisfactory inquiry into the benefits of the proposed undertakin country on which it originated, and in remote effect to ou

The mature reflection required to determine the fulfilment of the first condition, and the special study demanded for that of the second, would render Anglo-foreign speculations the rarest of exceptions. Capitalists, however, are not wont to be actuated by motives so abstract or profound, or the adage concerning the very fugitive alliance between folly and pelf would not be of so popular an application. The simpler incentive of extraordinary gain, though promised on the most illusory pretences, is that which invariably prevails, and the organs of hope and acquisitiveness require only to be sufficiently excited to overbear every other faculty and spring of action. A highly-coloured prospectus, in the composition of which the facile eloquence of the foreigner renders him the most skilful of artificers; foreign names of vague and delusive importance; facts of multifarious and overwhelming brilliancy, but inscrutable accuracy; calculations minute and comprehensive; the irreversible verdict of science, all tapering in graceful perspective to one central figure—the percentage of profit, of proportions too fascinating to be contemplated without the veil of modest understatement. If the *coup de main* be entrusted to a pleasant, lively, talkative, insinuating denizen of a more genial and favoured clime than ours—a count or marquis, if possible, but by all means decorated, and the bearer of a goodly crop of diplomas and certificates—the issue of the scheme, as far as the enrolment of a sufficient number of British shareholders goes, will be little less than certain. Then follows a gradual change in the nature and character of the prospect; the magician retires from view, and the brilliant phantasmagoria which had arisen at his powerful word slowly melts into air. He leaves his agents behind, but they have not the master's spell at command; ugly facts ooze out, which they have not the sublime art of transmuting into fortunate omens; and the process of undeception goes slowly and sickeningly on, till truth at last be found, if not in her proverbial abode at the bottom of the well, probably, and which is much the same, at the bottom of a mine shaft filled with water.

Such bubbles there are of indigenous inflation, doubtless, but a variety of causes concur to render them less frequent and less mischievous. The means of correcting false data are more readily at hand; a certain amount of experience, direct or at second hand, as to some of the elements of home adventure, will exist, to check egregious delusion; while the law opposes a barrier, more or less efficacious, against direct fraud. Finally, as before urged, the community is in some shape benefited even by the failure of a practical scheme attempted or executed for native objects and by native means. Unfortunately there is a vast amount of gullibility so deliberate and so wilful, that the very absence of the means of correctly testing the substantiality of a foreign project renders its brilliant promises more seductive, and ensures them a superiority over inducements of humbler pretensions and easier proof. No solemnity of warning, no reiteration of prudent admonitions, can ever eradicate simple, verdant folly, or over-grasping avarice, from the community; and legislation is as powerless over self-spoliation as over self-murder.

In so far, however, as the evil is a national one, some mitigation may be sought for it in the laws of the country. France imposes a tax upon the shares of every registered public company, as well as on all public securities; and the restriction to home enterprise proves not so unwise, after all, as it induces the resort to English capital and an English Company, to contribute to French industry and French prosperity. Why should not this move be met by a tax in England on all shares in foreign companies, or in English companies for foreign objects? In thus counteracting an over-hazardous kind of speculation, to the encouragement of domestic industry, and the increase of the revenue the most stringent free-trader might acquiesce. A revisal of our patent laws, extending the right over a longer period of years, and rendering its tenure less generally insecure, would co operate in an important degree to check the evil to which we have adverted, and render capitalists more inclined to reconcile their own with their nation's interests.

REFUSAL OF THE BANK TO DISCOUNT FOR BROKERS.

THE resolution recently adopted, after grave deliberation, by the Bank of England, by which they decline to re-discount the bills of the discount houses, deserves all the attention which it has received. It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of the functions discharged by these establishments, which, now-a-days, are not mere commission agents, acting as intermediaries between the person who has money to lend and the person who has securities to offer. They are really bankers and dealers in money upon a colossal scale. We speak of them in the plural number, but, owing partly to the changes produced by the events of last year, there are less than half-a-dozen of these establishments, properly so called, in the City of London; and of these only two carry on transactions upon an important scale. In reality, the field is still further narrowed; and the alteration at the Bank is virtually aimed at the old established and eminent firm of Messrs. Overend, Gurney, and Co., who monopolise the great bulk of the Lombard-street discount business. So extensive is the "connexion" of this house, remarks the *Daily News*, that, upon extraordinary occasions, its aggregate transactions are said to have amounted to something like a million sterling *per diem;* and even in ordinary times its business is extremely large. Owing partly to the recollection of certain circumstances connected with the late crisis, a suspicion has been hinted in some quarters that the Bank directors, in their present decision, have been not altogether uninfluenced by personal motives. This idea we cannot entertain for a moment. The impartial and admirable conduct of the directors during the trying crisis of last autumn ought of itself to secure to them perfect immunity from insinuations of this nature. Moreover, had personal pique been the motive, the regulation now enforced would not have been delayed until a period of perfect ease in the money market. That the Bank

are actuated by a desire to increase their own business and importance is much more probable. Hitherto, the discount houses have had, virtually, the immense resources of the Bank of England at their back; for, in time of pressure, they could always rely upon obtaining accommodation to any amount upon the approved securities which they were enabled to offer. By cutting off these facilities and intimating to the Lombard-street houses that they must henceforth rely solely upon their own means, the Bank may reasonably expect to increase both the extent and value of their own business. It is very possible that merchants who were content to deal with and rely solely upon Messrs. Overend, Gurney, and Co., as long as they knew that the resources of that house were practically inexhaustible, will now deem it only prudent to have a discount account at the Bank of England, whose position is thus rendered more elevated than ever. On the other hand, persons who see in the alteration at the Bank a fatal blow to the prestige of the firm referred to, labour under a great mistake. That house enjoys the highest credit, and a most numerous and valuable *clientelle*, the growth of a long series of years. In addition to the wealthy partners whose names are before the world there are others in the background; and the aggregate capital at their command is so large that there is no reason why they should not, if they think proper, continue to purchase Government stock until they have amassed a very large reserve. If pressed for money, their policy will be, either to sell, or, more probably, to borrow money upon stock. The difference will be, that this reserve will be relatively limited; as long as they could fall back upon the Bank of England it was practically unlimited. And herein consists one of the advantages likely to result to the community from the new arrangement. Greater caution will be imposed upon the discount houses, and, through them, upon country joint-stock banks. The latter have relied upon the discount houses; the discount houses have relied upon the Bank of England; and in this way the reserve of the bank has really been made subservient to the necessities and encouragement of speculative traders in the provinces. It is not necessary to assume that the discount firms knowingly encouraged irregular developments of trade; it may be that they looked no further than to the liability of the shareholders in the joint-stock banks. It is perfectly evident, however, that an abuse of the practice of re-discounting is here indicated. The system was clearly calculated to encourage all parties to extend their engagements beyond their means, in reliance upon a higher support. If only for this reason, we think the bank is justified in adopting a step which, it must be admitted, is essentially arbitrary and exclusive, and which may even aggravate the derangement of the money market in critical times. High considerations of this kind are indeed requisite to the due comprehension of the course adopted by the directors, who virtually refuse to enter into further dealings with a customer of great wealth and credit, and who will occasionally take, without the security afforded by the endorsement of the great Lombard-street house, paper which would otherwise have possessed that advantage.

The verdict of approval by which the decision of the Bank has been stamped by many persons is based, however, upon other grounds. There is no doubt that the system of receiving deposits at interest has been carried to an extreme and unsafe degree of development, not merely by the discount houses, but by many of the joint-stock banks in London and the provinces. There has been far too much competition for deposits; the rates allowed have been too high, and the facilities of re-call greater than is consistent with prudence. The higher the terms paid for deposits, the more necessary has it been to employ them, the result being an extreme disregard of the obligation of retaining in hand a good reserve. A merchant who holds £20,000, which he does not want to use until a week hence, may find it very convenient to lodge it for a week with Messrs. Gurney and Co. at interest; but can Messrs. Gurney and Co. safely employ the money? The step just adopted by the Bank undoubtedly involves a check upon this system. Banks and discount houses alike will be compelled to look farther forward; and if the competition for deposits slackens, and depositors are required to give a longer notice of withdrawal, the real interests of the community will certainly be promoted.

But, whilst drawing attention to points whereon the new rule of the Bank will have a salutary operation, we confess to an apprehension that too much good must not be expected from it. The causes of unsound trading are very deeply seated; and, when the next speculative development occurs, monetary facilities will not be wanting. The rules of the Bank are not like the laws of the Medes and Persians. Let us suppose a pressure to arise, aggravated by speculative irregularities; let us suppose that a great discount firm applies to the Bank for accommodation to a large amount upon unexceptionable securities. In numerous similar cases the Bank of England have readily extended assistance to establishments really solvent but temporarily embarrassed. Could they refuse to do so in the case supposed, knowing that the mere suspension of the house would involve the fall of hundreds of others, and infallibly precipitate a general crash? If the new rule is not to hold good in such a case—and the Bank of England would not venture to uphold it—its assumed beneficial influence must be proportionately diminished.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Board of Trade returns for the month of February were issued on the 25th of March, and present a further extraordinary reduction in the declared value of our exportations. In January the falling off was £1,836,505, and it is now £2,024,624. This, however, which would at one period have been looked upon as a very serious feature, can be regarded without discouragement, owing to the light thrown by the recent crisis on the character of our enormous shipments during the last few years. Although the total in the present return is only £7,288,416 against £9,313,040 in the corresponding month of 1857, it has, doubtless, yielded a greater profit. The probability is that few consignments

have lately been made without a fair certainty of a remunerative return, while in 1857 a large proportion were sent out, not only to uncertain markets, but deliberately at a calculated loss, the object merely being to keep up as long as possible the power of manufacturing accommodation bills. The annexed table shows the exact increase or decrease in each item. The reduction is general, and is due to the lower range of prices as well as to diminished quantities. Iron shows the greatest falling off, but cotton, woollen, silk, and linen manufactures are all largely on the adverse side. Haberdashery, which includes ready-made clothing, and is a great item in the Australian and general colonial trade, likewise figures again for a considerable decrease :—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Months ending Feb. 28, 1857, and Feb. 28, 1858.	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.
Apparel and slops	£119,946	£115,284	—	£4,662
Beer and ale	134,178	148,090	13,912	—
Books	28,974	27,914	—	1,060
Butter	46,568	24,879	—	21,689
Candles	15,285	8,869	—	6,416
Cheese	9,586	3,385	—	6,201
Coals and culm	191,541	203,972	12,431	—
Cordage...	9,809	7,214	—	2,595
Cottons	2,494,358	2,193,777	—	300,581
Cotton yarn	550,169	640,681	90,512	—
Earthenware	112,966	80,855	—	32.111
Fish	10,774	4,931	—	5,843
Furniture	21,933	17,074	—	4,859
Glass	41,328	39,698	—	1,630
Haberdashery	381,299	219,113	—	162,186
Hardwares	283,711	188,699	—	95,012
Leather	164,292	122,462	—	41,830
Linens	398,065	281,973	—	116,092
Linen yarn	149,857	76,766	—	73,091
Machinery	245,868	206,958	—	38,910
Iron and steel	941,927	562,581	—	379,346
Copper and brass...	230,685	258,755	28,070	—
Lead	45,472	40,489	—	4,983
Tin	154,890	97,428	—	57,462
Oil seed	34,858	48,139	13,281	—
Painters' colours...	24,976	19,226	—	5,750
Pickles and sauces	19,911	14,958	—	4,953
Plate and jewellery	35,741	44,464	8,723	—
Salt	21,920	10,987	—	10,933
Silks	287,273	101,725	—	185,548
Soap	19,571	11,316	—	8,255
Soda	41,515	43,699	2,184	—
Spirits	81,304	16,055	—	65,249
Stationery	54,151	57,522	3,371	—
Sugar, refined	23,890	13,918	—	9,972
Wool	55,461	65,503	10,042	—
Woollens	890,099	618,553	—	271,546
Woollen Yarn	209,930	136,873	—	73,057
Unenumerated articles	728,959	513,631	—	215,328
Total	9,313,040	7,288,416		

With regard to imported commodities, there is no general s diminution in the consumption. The quantity of wheat a landed and taken into use shows a considerable increase, suf account for the long continued dulness in the corn market. Th tities of coffee, tea, sugar, cocoa, fruits and tobacco taken into likewise been large. In the consumption of wines and spirits t been a reduction.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported a for home consumption :—

Months ending Feb. 28, 1857, and Feb. 28, 1858.	Imported.		Home Consu	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	
Grain, wheat, qrs.	107,352	263,553	107,352	
Grain of other descriptions, qrs.	98,621	153,414	98,621	
Indian corn, qrs....	38,630	63,953	38,630	
Flour and meal, cwt.	156,077	309,353	156,077	
Provisions—Bacon, &c. &c., cwt.	56,397	20,889	Free.	
Butter and cheese, cwt.	55,120	44,393	58,976	
Animals, No.	3,705	1,591	Free.	
Eggs, No.	6,643,800	8,413,200	6,644,200	8,
Cocoa, lb.	606,133	521,489	243,113	
Coffee, lb.	1,783,465	3,915,474	1,947,661	2,
Sugar, cwt.	402,858	373,265	539,862	
Tea, lb....	7,377,523	1,877,315	3,143,669	5,
Rice, cwt.	59,917	253,283	111,597	
Spirits, gallons	514,225	365,283	413,306	
Wines, gallons	492,399	361,230	625,213	
Tobacco, lb.	2,128,354	502,795	2,603,562	2,
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt...	35,011	14,867	17,330	
Lemons and oranges, bushels ..	113,735	109,929	111,351	
Spices, lb.	298,758	283,619	354,520	
Ditto, cwt.	2,924	5,596	679	

The following are the comparative imports and exports material, showing a decrease in each case, with the exception o and wool :—

Years ending Feb. 28, 1857, and Feb. 28, 1858.	Imported.		Exported	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	
Flax, cwt.	40,457	24,531	—	
Hemp, cwt	22,903	44,674	—	
Raw silk, lb.	1,780,284	613,059	166,979	1
Cotton, cwt....	538,297	352,288	76,364	
Wool, lb.	4,448,999	6,369,609	993,948	5
Tallow, cwt.	44,755	27,602	227	

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Years ending Feb. 28, 1857, and Feb. 28, 1858.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	94,761	72,042	90,560	72,814
Ditto of India, pieces	76,433	10,283	13,318	2,900

DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

In the House of Commons, on the 19th of April, Mr. Disraeli, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, made his financial statement. He began by adverting to the great changes which had taken place in the commercial condition of the country since the financial statement of his predecessor—changes which had clouded and disturbed the prospects indulged in 1857. The American panic, he observed, had acted in a disastrous manner upon our own commercial condition, and towards the end of the year a monetary crisis, in which the rate of discount reached 10 per cent., had produced severe distress, and pressed heavily upon the revenue of the country. After reading returns of the British trade and navigation in 1855, 1856, and 1857, and comparing them with the returns for 1853, the year before the war, he proceeded to consider our financial condition,—the charges upon the revenue, and the means at our command to meet them. There had been, he said, a considerable restoration of commercial confidence; capital was abundant, money was cheap, and the prices of the main articles of consumption were lower; but it was his conviction that, although the general condition of the country was at the present moment sound, and although there were indications of improvement, he could not indulge the belief that there would be a rapid return of the spirit of enterprise. After stating the amounts at which the several items of expenditure had been estimated for the last year by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, and their actual amount, he detailed the estimated expenditure for the year 1858—59, viz.:—

Funded and unfunded debt	£28,400,000
Civil List, &c.	1,900,000
Army	11,750,000
Navy	9,860,000
Miscellaneous Civil Services	7,000,000
Revenue Departments	4,700,000
Liabilities	3,500,000
	£67,110,000

The resources to meet these charges he estimated as follows:—

Customs	£23,400,000
Excise	18,100,000
Stamps	7,550,000
Land and Assessed Taxes	3,200,000
Property and Income-tax	6,100,000
Post-office	3,200,000
Crown Lands	270,000
Miscellaneous	1,300,000
	£63,120,000

The expenditure being £67,110,000, and the estimated revenue only £63,120,000, there would be a deficit of £3,990,000. This deficiency, he remarked, was not occasioned by any falling off in the resources of the country. He considered it under two heads:—first, the amount occasioned by our undertaking to pay debts; secondly, the amount caused by the cessation of taxes. The first, amounting to £3,500,000, was created by the War Sinking Fund, £1,500,000, and the payment of £2,000,000 Exchequer-bonds. He strongly urged the inexpediency of continuing the artificial attempt to pay debts without a surplus revenue, which was a revival of the old principle of the Sinking Fund; it was, in his opinion, highly fallacious and erroneous, and ought not to be kept in operation at least until the Exchequer-bonds had been paid off. Would the House, he asked, raise a loan to discharge engagements to pay off debts for which we had no means? Would not this be a clumsy mode of squaring accounts? The raising of money to pay debts would only plunge us deeper into debt. Then, was the House prepared to discharge the engagement by additional taxation? It would be a perplexing question how to raise £3,500,000 by taxation. He recommended the House to terminate the special sinking fund system either by repealing the act, which he considered to be false in principle and injurious in practice, or to resolve to suspend its operation until the Exchequer-bonds were provided for, which would relieve the finances of £1,500,000 a year. With regard to the Exchequer bonds, he might propose to fund them; but that course, he considered, would be unjustifiable, and contradictory to the conditions which the Government and Parliament had entered into when they were issued. If they were to be met, however, it must be by a new tax. At all events, the spirit of the engagement should be fulfilled; but they should be met out of the revenues of the country, and there should not be a permanent addition to the debt. He felt it to be his duty to place the finances in a position that would be advantageous to the country, and he recommended to the house to postpone for some years the payment of the Exchequer bonds,—an arrangement that would secure their discharge out of the revenues of the country. With respect to that portion of the deficiency caused by the falling off of the revenue, that had been occasioned by the cessation of a tax of a very memorable character—the property and income tax. The importance of that tax was not to be measured, he said, by its amount, but by the mode in

which it was assessed, the manner in which it was levied, and the social principles involved in its collection. This impost, unjust and inquisitorial as it was regarded, could not be made a permanent feature of our fiscal system. But, although this was his opinion, and, believing that the agreement of 1853 should, in spirit, if not in letter, be carried into effect, it was possible that the country, however anxious to obtain this result, might not be unprepared to bear this year the burden it had borne so well the last; although a deficiency arising from the cessation of taxation must be supplied by taxation, and the deficiency would be converted into a surplus if the committee should continue the income tax for another year at the same rate as that of last year, it was, nevertheless, the deliberate opinion of Her Majesty's Ministers that the deficiency of the revenue ought not to be supplied by an increase of this tax. But, if its fall was not to be disturbed, the House must feel that it was absolutely necessary to support the revenue by the imposition of new taxes. It might be said that the expenditure could be reduced; but this process could not be accomplished in haste: it required time and investigation. Although it would be possible to earn a momentary popularity by retrenchments, unless they were the result of thought and management they would only lead to a fatal reaction of expenditure. In discharging the unpleasant office of selecting a new tax, he was consoled, he said, in reflecting that every one would feel a relief in the fall in the rate of the income tax, and the mode in which he would attempt to supply the remaining portion of the deficiency was by a proposition which he considered reasonable and wise—namely, to equalise the duties on spirits, which, he calculated, would give to the Exchequer £500,000 a-year, thus putting an end to the deficit. But he thought provision should be made to secure a surplus, and as no form of taxation was more popular or less annoying than stamps, he proposed that when a cheque was drawn there should be a stamp; and this tax, he estimated, would produce £300,000. Mr. Disraeli, in conclusion, took a cheerful view of the situation and prospects of the country next year, when he expected, if no disaster occurred, we should be able to meet all engagements and enjoy the luxury of a surplus revenue, and he expressed a hope that the propositions he had made would receive the candid consideration and cordial acceptance of the country. (The right hon. gentleman resumed his seat amidst general cheering from all parts of the house.)

Mr. Grogan highly eulogised the statement of the right hon. gentleman, but objected to the proposed alteration of the duty on Irish spirits, which would encourage illicit distillation, and add little to the revenue.

Sir H. Willoughby asked what provision, if any, had been made for the China war? He thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer was quite right in not meddling with the income tax.

Mr. Deasy hoped the resolution with respect to Irish spirits would be postponed, to give time for consideration.

Sir G. C. Lewis retained his opinion that something like the existing Sinking Fund Act was advisable for the redemption of the debt, or it would go on interminably unliquidated. He would, however, reserve

his observations until the bill on the subject should be before them. As to the postponement of the Exchequer-bonds, he could not postpone them. They must be paid, and he presumed the right hon. gentleman would take a vote in supply to meet them, and thus they would become nothing more or less than a new loan for a specific time.

Mr. Fagan thought the right hon. gentleman would derive little benefit from the equalisation of the spirit duties.

The Attorney-General for Ireland did not think the proposed change would lead to illicit distillation.

Mr. Wilson thought the proposed tax on bankers' cheques would be a serious interference with the capital of the country.

Mr. M'Mahon hoped the resolution relative to the spirit duties would be postponed.

Mr. Malins believed the country would hail with delight the fact that the right hon. gentleman was resolved that the gradual reduction of the income tax should not be interfered with. He gave his cordial approval to the Budget, with the exception of that portion of it relating to bankers' cheques.

After some further observations from several hon. members,

Mr. Glyn expressed a hope that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would re-consider his proposition with respect to the stamps on cheques, which would lead to the greatest inconvenience, particularly in the country.

Mr. Ingram expressed his surprise that the right hon. gentleman had not proposed to repeal the duty on paper.

After some further conversation,

Mr. Gladstone expressed his gratification that the proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been so well received by the house. The stamp on cheques was a proposal on which there prevailed a great diversity of opinion; but the right hon. gentleman would be certain to receive a vast amount of information on the subject from those who best understood its bearings, and should he, on considering that information, think it advisable to abandon his project, he would do so without the slightest discredit. He could have been pleased had the Government been enabled to propose a bolder course for meeting the debts of the country, but in its present condition they should not expect more from ministers than it was in their power to accomplish. He was glad the right hon. gentleman had not attempted to interfere with the income tax, which he hoped would be suffered to die a natural death in 1860. If, however, they wished to get rid of taxation, there was but one legitimate mode of doing so, and that was by a strict investigation of the expenditure with a view to its reduction.

Mr. Newdegate was certain the country would be gratified at finding that there could be now no doubt but that the income tax would be finally got rid of.

After some further conversation, resolutions on which to found bills to carry out propositions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer were agreed to.

THE "TIMES" ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

THE adoption of the clause of the budget imposing a penny stamp on cheques without even a word of discussion has taken the city by surprise. As this apparently was the only point of the financial scheme just submitted which was in danger of being contested, the public may now assume they are in possession of all the materials for estimating their position for the next twelve months, supposing we are allowed to remain at peace. A complete statement and analysis of all its points can therefore be given.

It now appears with respect to the year ending the 31st of March, 1858, that, although the expenditure exceeded the revenue by £2,497,345, the accounts presented nothing in the shape of an unexpected deficiency. At the beginning of the year the balance in the treasury stood at the unusually large amount of £8,668,000. Subsequently there were paid off £2,000,000 of Exchequer-bonds and £288,600 of Exchequer-bills. £250,000 was applied to the sinking-fund for the Crimean loans, and £77,862 to the ordinary sinking-fund, under the principle established in 1829, while £1,125,206 was handed to Denmark for the total extinction of the Sound dues, —a payment which might, according to the treaty, have been extended over twenty years. Thus the amount of obligations extinguished was £3,741,668, and, as the excess of expenditure was only £2,497.345, the country was consequently at the end of the period in a better financial position than at its commencement by £1,244,323; and, although the balance in the treasury had been reduced about £2,000,000,—namely, to £6,657,802,—it was still of more than ordinary magnitude. But it will be said, if the estimates of Sir G. Lewis had been sufficient, the revenue should at least have been equal to the expenditure, and the balance in the treasury should have been left undiminished, especially as he was aware at the commencement, apart from any question about the Sound dues, that he was bound to provide for permanent reductions of debt amounting to £2,616,462. The fact is, however, that in addition to the £1,125,206 paid to Denmark, there were extraordinary disbursements during the year of £635,000 for the Persian expedition, £10,000 for the dowry of the Princess Royal, and £500,000 in the shape of a supplementary vote for the militia. Hence the amounts expended for which the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not called to provide at starting, reached in the aggregate £2,300.206, or within £197,000 of the extent to which he found it necessary to draw upon his balance of floating cash. Considering that during the period in question the country passed through a commercial crisis of unexampled severity, this result must appear as remarkable as it is satisfactory, and should seal that confidence on the part of the public, in Sir G. Lewis, which steadily grew up during his whole tenure of office,

Having thus done justice as regards the past, we may now proceed to weigh Mr. Disraeli's proposals for the future.

His estimated expenditure for 1858-9, amounts to £67,110,000, and is placed as follows:—

Funded and unfunded debt	£28,400,000
Permanent charge or Consolidated fund	1,900,000
Army...	11,750,000
Navy, (including packet service)...	9,860,000
Miscellaneous civil services, not yet settled, but expected to be within	7,000,000
Revenue department	4,700,000
Liability for Russian war sinking fund	1,500.000
Ditto for Exchequer-bonds	2,000,000
Total	£67,110,000

On the other hand, the calculations for revenue stand thus:—

Customs	£23,400,000
Excise	18,100,000
Stamps	7,550,000
Land and assessed taxes	3,200,000
Property and income tax	6,100,000
Post-office	3,200,000
Crown Lands	270,000
Miscellaneous	1,300,000
	£63,120,000

We have here a deficiency of £3,990,000, which may be enlarged or diminished from accidental circumstances, or in proportion as the view taken in the case of each item may prove to have been over sanguine or over cautious. On these important points we may hope, but certainly cannot rely, that the result will be satisfactory. In connexion with the estimates of expenditure the following statements were made. As compared with 1857-8, the charge for the public debt (£28,400,000) shows a diminution of £150,000, occasioned by the liquidation last year of two millions of Exchequer-bonds, a lowering of the rate of interest on Exchequer-bills, and certain operations of the Sinking Fund. The charge for the Consolidated Fund (£1,900,000) shows an increase of £130,000, owing to what Mr. Disraeli terms the "recklessly liberal" compensation awarded by the House of Commons to proctors and other officials of the Ecclesiastical Courts. For the miscellaneous civil services the total is still open to alterations, but the attention of the House was emphatically drawn to the fact that, although the rough estimate on the present occasion (£7,000,000) shows a reduction of £400,000, it is extremely difficult for any government to control this branch of outlay, although it is to this that the advocates of reduction who are not prepared to incur the unpopularity of declaiming against our military and naval defences usually direct their assaults. It includes the payments on account of law and justice, which increase every year, as well as the grants for education, which have advanced in twenty years from £30,000 to £1,000,000, and threaten to go on to £3,000,000 or £4,000,000 unless the House of Commons shall pursue a more guarded course with respect to them. The estimate for the Customs (£23,400,000) presents an increase of £100,000 over the diminished total of last year; but it was pointed out that all the circumstances of the country are favourable to a large consumption of imported articles, bread and sugar being cheap, and the remission of £9,000,000 of income-tax being calculated to add to the purchasing power of the population, the effect of these circumstances having indeed already been greatly manifested even in the quarter (January to April) immediately succeeding the commercial crisis. In the Excise, for similar reasons, an increase is assumed of £275,000, the receipts being put at £18,100,000. The stamp duties are set down at £7,550,000, which likewise shows an increase of £134,000, attributable to the growing proceeds of the succession duty. Whether this, however, will more than compensate for a deficiency suggested by one member as likely to be consequent upon the check inflicted by late events on the manufacture of accommodation bills may perhaps be doubted. On the land and assessed taxes (£3,200,000) an augmentation of £48,000 is assumed on account of the great number of new houses built. The property and income tax

(£6,100,000) is liable to little uncertainty. For the first half-year it is taken at 7*d.*, and for the second at 5*d.* This item, therefore, is not open to question. The Post-office estimate (£3,200,000) assumes an increase to the heavy extent of £280,000, in justification of which it is stated that the revenue last year was diminished by exceptional payments which will not have to be repeated. The only items on which a decrease is allowed for are Crown lands and miscellaneous. The former are taken at £270,000 and the latter at £1,300,000, showing respectively a decrease of £7,000 and £300,000.

This, then, is the actual financial position of the country and of its prospective shortcomings. The amount wanted is £3,990,000, and every finance minister should seek, not merely to provide for actual requirements, but also to insure the chance of a surplus, and so to remove all dread of contingencies. The plan of Mr. Disraeli has the merit of simplicity, and in proposing it he was able to have the satisfaction of calling attention to the circumstance that the demand for increased means does not arise from any intrinsic falling off in our resources. £1,000,000 will be saved by the people from the reduction of the income tax next half-year from 7*d.* to 5*d.*, and £3,500,000 of the estimated expenditure is on account of the extinction of public debt. But for this giving up of taxation and paying off of liabilities we should have an extra £4,500,000 available, or more than £500,000 in excess of the deficiency now before us. The natural balance of revenue and expenditure is, therefore, still on the favourable side. Under these circumstances, should resort be had to a loan,—that is to say, should we get into new debts to get out of old debts, or should new taxes be imposed solely for the purpose? In Mr. Disraeli's view, without entering into the question whether the public are ever likely, instead of being content to allow each surplus of revenue that may occur to be applied to the extinction of past liabilities, to impose upon themselves special taxes for such an object, the present moment was certainly not the one for an experiment of the kind, when, owing to the state of affairs in the East, to say nothing of signs nearer home, the requirements they are already called upon to meet are far beyond what may be considered the peace level. He consequently dismisses the idea, and resolves not to propose either the absurdity of borrowing money to repay borrowed money, or of reimposing in any degree a pressure upon the people from which they are but just enjoying a first mitigation, and which, whatever may be the largeness of its apparent yield, has been proved within the last three months, by the revival of consumption consequent upon its withdrawal, most seriously to affect other branches of the revenue as well as commerce in general. At the same time he made a satisfactory avowal of the "unjust, unequal, and inquisitorial" nature of the impost, which may perhaps be quoted at some future day, on any attempt again to revive or increase it in its present form, although, if it were honestly framed, it is one which would meet with no general disapproval. A loan or a fresh tampering with the pledges made regarding the income tax being alike set aside, a postponement of the repayments due this year was the only remaining course, and this has been adopted to the general satisfaction of the public. The £2,000,000 of Exchequer-bonds are to be renewed—£1,000,000 until 1862, and £1,000,000 until 1863, and the claim of £1,500,000 for the war sinking fund is to be set aside either by a repeal of the act or a postponement of its operation, until all the outstanding Exchequer-bonds shall have been repaid. Thus, of the defficiency of £3,990,000, £3,500,000 is met, leaving only £490,000, or in round numbers £500,000 to be provided for. To effect this a means was at hand, which

would not merely supply the full amount, but would actually secure for the Government the credit, of which more than anything else they stand in need, of a disposition to deal with commercial matters on sound principles. In 1855 Sir G. Lewis had equalised the duties on English and Scotch spirits, the Scotch distillers up to that period having enjoyed a bounty in consequence of differential rates, under which they paid a smaller duty than their English competitors. The result had been eminently satisfactory even to Scotland herself, who gained by the change admission to our markets; but, with that dread of the peculiarities of Irish members which characterises almost every administration, great caution was exercised in venturing to apply a similar reform to their country. A step in the direction, however, was taken by the late ministry with good results, and it only remained for Mr. Disraeli to seize the idea of his predecessors. He now intends to raise the Irish duties from 6*s.* 2*d.* to the English and Scotch rate of 8*s.*, and expects to get £500,000 per annum by the process. Mr. Wilson, the late secretary to the treasury, thinks this an over-estimate, but of course concurs in the plan, together with all advocates of sound commercial views. Probably the gain is taken too high, although if the consumption were not to fall off the increase would not be limited to £500,000, but would reach £621,000. Assuming, however, the figures of the Chancellor to be those which will be confirmed by experience, we have here the deficiency entirely covered; and as there can be little doubt of this part of the budget being adopted, notwithstanding a protest from Mr. P. O'Brien that it involves "a great financial wrong," followed by a denunciation from the *Freeman's Journal*, that it is "an act of reckless audacity almost without parallel," Mr. Disraeli might at this point consider his task performed. But, he rightly remarked, it would scarcely be creditable to rest content with squaring our means to our liabilities to a precise shilling. It is not enough to say that the amount to the credit of the treasury at the Bank of England is now good; that it will be further strengthened by a repayment of £400,000, from the India Company and £600,000 from other sources, besides a smaller amount for interest and sinking fund on the Sardinian loan. These sources of support may render it less necessary to provide for the acquisition of a large surplus, but they have nothing to do with the real revenue of the year, and that revenue ought, at all events, to show the prospect of a little turn on the favourable side. Hence the proposition for a penny stamp on cheques, a plan which had been contemplated by two previous Chancellors of the Exchequer. The expediency of the tax had long been urged when Mr. Gladstone took it up, and its adoption by Sir G. Lewis occurred two or three years subsequently. In both cases the public augured well of it, but the Parliamentary influence of the bankers was brought into operation, and as the amount involved appeared small the proposal was in each case abandoned, in order that it should not prove an impediment to the passing of other and, as it was considered, more important features in the budgets then proposed. As all parties, however, are now disposed to toleration, a weak Government has been able to carry a new tax from which two comparatively strong ones allowed themselves to be driven.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY.

THE following is the report of Mr. J. E. Coleman, presented to the liquidators of the Northumberland and Durham District Banking Company :—

Gentlemen,—In reporting to you the result of my investigation and examination into the affairs of the Northumberland and Durham District Banking Company, I must observe, that the extremely limited time (viz., eight days) that I have been engaged in the same, would in itself preclude the possibility of entering into such details, as I consider an affair of this importance demands. But in addition to this I may observe, that the irregular, imperfect, and vague mode in which the books of the establishment have been kept, and utter ignorance in which the clerks were also kept as to the most important portion of the business—viz., the bills of exchange and debts on loans—have tended very much to increase the difficulties of ascertaining that information which was absolutely necessary to guide my judgment in arriving at or estimating the value of the assets.

In making these remarks, I wish it particularly to be understood that every exertion has been made by Messrs. Allinson and Gillespie, the accountants called in by the liquidators, and their assistants, to get out all details from the books, and from documents they had access to; and but for Mr. Allinson's unwearied personal efforts, and local knowledge, it would have been utterly impossible for me to have, even now, been prepared to give my opinion and views on the different questions propounded by the lords justices, and to answer which the best of my abilities and attention has been almost solely devoted.

The liabilities of the bank may be taken as follows :—

To 4,882 depositors				£1,256,945	0 0
2,010 customers and bankers on current accounts...				766,485	0 0
				£2,023,430	0 0
Liabilities on bills re-discounted, amounting in all to	£1,333,745	0	0		
Of which it is expected there will be duly honoured and payments made by drawers, acceptors and endorsers, to the extent of	1,101,975	0	0		
Leaving an estimated liability against the bank of ...				231,770	0 0
Making the total estimated liabilities of the bank, including interest, on 22nd January last past ...				£2,255,200	0 0

If interest is to be taken into account, which the depositors and other creditors have been led to believe they will receive, a large sum, according to the length of time occupied in the liquidation, will accrue, and be payable, in addition to the above amount of £2,255,200.

The following tabular statement will show the relative number, classified in amounts up to £50 and £100, and those exceeding the latter amount :—

TABULAR STATEMENT OF DEPOSITORS.

	Above £100.		£100, and above £50.		Under £50.		Totals.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Newcastle	1552	645,764 19 9	391	26,126 2 5	390	11,315 14 2	2333	683,206 16 4
Sunderland	490	205,697 3 3	216	14,621 9 9	287	7,753 7 6	993	228 072 0 6
Alnwick	390	152,396 17 7	139	9,103 13 8	149	4,378 19 3	678	165,829 10 6
Berwick.....	83	34,017 8 6	23	1,552 14 6	53	1,198 18 3	159	36,769 1 3
North Shields	208	69,515 4 8	106	7,242 16 11	135	3,560 16 9	449	80,318 18 4
South Shields . ..	152	57,058 2 2	62	4,188 16 2	56	1,501 13 5	270	62,748 11 9
	2875	1,164,449 15 11	937	62,835 13 5	1070	29,659 9 4	4882	1,256,944 18 8

TABULAR STATEMENT OF CREDITORS ON CURRENT ACCOUNTS.

	Above £100.		£100, and above £50.		Under £50.		Totals.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Newcastle.....	259	311,466 9 0	75	5,492 14 0	358	5,851 11 9	715	322,810 14 9
Sunderland	275	189,993 0 10	48	3,478 5 11	83	1,868 16 11	406	195,340 3 8
Alnwick.....	49	29,445 17 2	19	1,349 14 4	31	634 2 8	99	31,429 14 2
Berwick..	73	31,878 2 7	31	2,247 17 0	106	1,626 3 10	210	35,752 3 5
Durham.....	57	30,531 15 4	20	1,413 17 0	52	893 14 8	129	32,839 7 0
North Shields'	145	86,223 17 6	46	3,378 13 8	115	2,002 4 1	306	91,604 15 3
South Shields	103	51,702 8 10	45	3,230 11 8	85	1,775 19 3	233	56,708 19 9
	961	731,241 11 3	284	20,591 13 7	830	14,652 13 2	2098	766,485 18 0

I have further ascertained that of the foregoing there are about 335 creditors of £1,000 and upwards, making together an aggregate of about £850,000 out of the sum of £2,023,430.

There are only two creditors who hold security—whose claims amount to £161,536. The securities held are estimated to realise sufficient to cover their claims, but no surplus is expected to arise therefrom for the benefit of the general creditors.

The assets of the bank, exclusive of the Derwent Iron Works, may be taken as follows :—

By cash in hand on the 22nd January ...	...£26,205	0	0
Sundry debts due to the bank, inclusive of bills of exchange appertaining to same	... 909,662	0	0
Sundry properties belonging to the bank ...	... 128,215	0	0
	£1,064,082	0	0
The Derwent Iron Company are indebted to the bank upon account current in a sum of ...	...£753,166	0	0
The liabilities on bills discounted for the company direct, or for their agents, that will rank on this estate, amount to	... 194,756	0	0
Making a total of debt and liability in respect of the Derwent Iron Company of	£947,922	0	0

In this amount are included bills amounting to £174,096 5*s.* 10*d.*, for the payment of which special engagements have been given by the Derwent Iron Company, but the rights of the holders against the District Bank are strictly preserved, and the liquidators are bound to pay dividends on such bills at the same periods as they pay other creditors. On the other hand, the Derwent Iron Company are also bound to repay the liquidators any dividends so paid, and to retire the whole of such bills within three years.

It is not possible at present to define the value of these works, as it will be necessary, first, to make an investigation, and ascertain how the very large sums of money which have been obtained from the bank have been expended, or lost. It is undeniable that iron masters generally have, during the past ten years, made very large profits, and it is thereby evident that these works have been conducted in a very bad manner, whereby the large debt due to the bank has been much increased. When the causes of this large absorption are ascertained and proved, I have no doubt the investigation will show that these works are, under proper management and supervision, capable of competing with, if not of excelling, other similar works. When the extent and cost of production are known, data will exist upon which a true value of the works may be ascertained.

The amount of cash at the bankers, to the credit of the liquidators, at this date, is £77,857 9*s.* 10*d.*

So much latitude has been allowed by the bank to their customers, that the advances made, and which are now due, are extremely disproportionate to the immediate means of the debtors; indeed, viewing the assets *en masse*, and considering that they are all in this kingdom, I do not hesitate to state that they require more judgment and time in realisation than any like matters that ever came under my notice.

The estimated value of securities held by the bank in respect of the debts due to them is	£496,176	0	0
Of these there are held by various creditors before referred to, a portion amounting to	84,038	0	0
Thus leaving the estimated amount of securities held by the bank as applicable towards the realisation of debts due to them	£412,138	0	0

In respect to the properties held by the bank, with the exception of the several bank premises at Newcastle, Sunderland, South Shields, and North Shields, they consist of real and leasehold estates which have come into their hands, either through bankruptcy or the insolvency of their debtors.

In estimating the realisation of the assets of the bank, it is extremely difficult to fix a defined period, more particularly with regard to that portion which consists of collieries, and also the debt of the

Derwent Iron Company, but I have treated the remaining assets as being available within three years from the month of June.

The result of the foregoing particulars is as follows:—

The estimated total liabilities that will rank on the bank are	£2,255,200	0	0
The assets of the bank, excluding the value of the Derwent Iron Works, are estimated to yield	1,064,082	0	0
Leaving a deficiency to be provided for, of	1,191,118	0	0
The amount of capital paid up by shareholders, inclusive of that portion of a call of £5 made by the directors after the supension, and prior to the liquidation, amounts to	644,032	0	0
Thus making the total losses made by the bank ...	£1,835,150	0	0

Subject to reduction by such amount as may hereafter be realised from the Derwent Iron Works.

I have noticed some transactions of the directors between the time of suspension and the appointment of liquidators, that will require special investigation and rectification; for, as they now stand, they are preferences detrimental to the general creditors. These acts were no doubt done under the supposition that the bank was solvent, and I am informed that a willingness has been expressed to replace the debts due to the bank in their original position, so as to give the general creditors their full rights in respect of the same.

Viewing the general position before alluded to, it appears that there will be required from the shareholders, and from the Derwent Iron Company together, a sum of £1,191,118 to meet the difference (that is, the deficiency between the claims and assets of the bank); and as the shareholders are, to the extent of their capabilities, the most readily available, the dealing with them becomes a primary consideration. It is evident that *pro rata* contributions, levied on the shares, will not meet the amount required, unless some few are sufficiently wealthy to bear the brunt of the deficiency of the majority. Should they not be so, then undoubtedly the view to be taken is, what are the capabilities of each shareholder, as respects the whole of his or her property? In weighing these positions, it will also be necessary, at one and the same time, to consider the position of the creditors; for if the latter cannot receive the whole of their claims in full, then it would be desirable that endeavours should be made to effect a compromise between all parties. In this case, I do not think it could be successfully carried out unless measures were at once framed for the payment of a fixed composition to all creditors of the bank under a specified amount.

This is so very important a point, that I feel due deliberation must be given, and further information obtained, before I could venture on an opinion as to the precise sum at which the compromise should be carried out.

It would have been much more satisfactory to me, had time allowed, to have given some general statement as to the past conduct of the

bank; and it appears to me that you will have to institute an examination into the proceedings and transactions of the bank since 1847, so as to show clearly in what manner and by what means the present disastrous result has occurred.

THE RAILWAYS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

To say that the results of the half-yearly railway meetings just brought to a termination are as satisfactory as most of their predecessors, would be wrong; but at the same time the full dividends paid in the majority of cases, and in some instances, where the directors have been enabled to declare increased dividends, it has arisen through a decrease in the expenditure, and not from any improvement in the traffic either of passengers or merchandise. For some time past, but more particularly within the last few weeks, the official returns have shown a gradual and in many cases a very considerable falling off; but, with the exception of the London and North Western, this is to be attributed to the great stagnation of trade, to the revulsion recently experienced in monetary circles, and to other circumstances over which the directors have no control. With a revival in trade and the approach of summer, there appears no reason to doubt that the weekly returns will again show satisfactory progress.

With regard to the London and North Western, however, the case is very different. Between that company and the Great Northern and Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Companies, an insane competition has sprung up, which, if not checked, will speedily result in a total suppression of dividends, if not something worse, if we are to take the latest returns as any criterion; for by them we find, that during the fifteen weeks ending the 11th April, with an additional ten miles open, the traffic receipts show a decrease of no less than £74,422 as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The quarrel between the companies alluded to is a very pretty one as it stands; to decide which is in the wrong would be a matter of some difficulty: each party is charged as the aggressor, and each have put forward statements in their own defence. We annex the latest brochure of the London and North Western Company, premising, of course, that it must be viewed as putting for themselves the best aspect on the subject:—

"For many years past numerous agreements, having for their object saving of expense and development of traffic, and based on co-operation for mutual advantage, have existed between the Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire, and London and North Western Companies. The last of these agreements was entered into on the 29th of July, 1854, and was terminable only by a seven years' notice by either company, containing also ample power of arbitration for any differences which might arise

under it. On the 12th of January, 1857, the directors of the Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Company stated in their report to their proprietors that 'the relations of this (the Sheffield) company with surrounding companies continue in a satisfactory condition;' and on the 21st of January, 1857, Mr. Chapman, their deputy-chairman, stated to the proprietors that the agreement with the London and North Western Company 'cannot expire under seven years;' and 'the London and North Western cannot get rid of that without seven years' notice.' In April, 1857, the accounts were settled to the 31st of December, 1856, and the claim of the Sheffield Company to participate in the increase of the dividend of the North Western was agreed to be referred to Mr. Laing, the arbitrator named in the agreement. On the 29th of May, 1857, the Sheffield Company passed a resolution charging the London and North Western Company with having in various ways, and for years, acted contrary to the agreement of July, 1854, and on the 8th of June this resolution was handed to the London and North Western, coupled with a charge of negotiation with the Great Northern Company. The whole of these charges were at once and positively denied by the London and North Western Company. The Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Company then intimated, regardless of the stipulation of a seven years' notice, that they considered the agreement no longer binding upon them, and that they declined to avail themselves of the arbitration provided by it; that they had, in fact, entered into arrangements with the Great Northern Company, contrary to that agreement, which rendered it impossible to observe it. They sought at the same time to enforce and extend, for the benefit of the Great Northern Company, and for purposes injurious to the London and North Western Company, certain agreements, by which the Sheffield Company enjoyed the use of this company's station at Manchester. The alleged right thus claimed being denied, the Sheffield Company appealed to the Court of Chancery; they also gave notice of application to Parliament to amalgamate with the Great Northern Company; also, for power to lease the Warrington and Stockport line; also, to make another competing line between Liverpool and Manchester, using for that purpose the Altrincham and South Junction line, constructed at a cost of nearly a million, and owned jointly and equally by the North Western and Sheffield Companies; also, for power to obtain similar rights in the Manchester station to those sought by their bill in Chancery. All which proceedings are in violation of the agreement of July, 1854, and for purposes hostile to the London and North Western Company. The London and North Western Company took the necessary steps in Chancery to resist these claims of the Sheffield Company, and to enforce performance by that company of the agreement of July, 1854, and for bringing other questions before the Courts. All questions at issue between the companies were thus placed in course of decision by competent and proper tribunals; but the Great Northern and the Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Companies at the same time commenced a reckless competition for the traffic of this company at Manchester, Liverpool, Chester, and other points. The London and North Western directors have never been able to understand the justice or reasonableness of the attempts of those companies by such means to extort the abandonment of rights thus necessarily referred, in ordinary course, to the impartial decision of proper tribunals. The London and North Western have asked no abandonment of rights, and have repeatedly offered (notwithstanding the pending litigation) to agree to equal and remunerative rates (in all cases fixed by the company owning the shortest route), but this again the Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire and Great Northern declined to assent to unless the London and

North Western would agree to abandon their rights under the agreement of July, 1854. Ultimately it was agreed that the rates and fares should be fixed by the deputations from certain neutral companies in the event of the competing companies being unable to agree on them, and the managers of the respective companies having failed to agree, a meeting took place before the deputations, when the views of the respective companies were submitted to them. On the 13th instant, however, all other questions being settled, Mr. Denison, on behalf of the Great Northern and Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Companies, withdrew from the deputation the previously granted authority to them to arbitrate on the question of rates and fares, as to which the deputations say, in their minute of that date, which has been published, 'This question, however, involves the whole subject of unrestricted competition, and is of such paramount importance as practically to prevent any settlement so long as it is kept open. The deputation are unable to discover any valid reason why, if this important question has throughout these negotiations been deemed a proper subject for the decision of independent parties, it is not so at the present time, when all other points are agreed.' "

And in their report to the shareholders at the half-yearly meeting the directors say :—

" The breach by the Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Company, of their agreements with this company, reported at the last general meeting, and their simultaneous agreement for amalgamation with the Great Northern Company, were followed soon after by combined attacks upon the traffic at Manchester, Liverpool, and other places, and at rates and fares not only very much lower than either of those companies charge on their own proper traffic, but wholly unremunerative. Towards the end of December the directors received through the late Mr. Paget, chairman of the Midland Railway Company, a proposal on the part of the Great Northern and Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Companies, the substance of which was either for an immediate division with them of the profits of this company's traffic as far as competed for, or for equal and remunerative rates at all places for a term of five years; this making certain concessions to the other party as regards stations, company, &c. The directors, having always expressed their readiness to agree to the principle of equal rates, accepted that proposal, subject to certain stipulations, on the understanding that they did not thereby recognise the *status quo* of the other party, but, on the contrary, reserved all the company's rights in that behalf for assertion in Parliament or elsewhere. A question having arisen at the last moment as to whether a certain clause in the agreement, as engrossed by the solicitor of the Great Northern and Sheffield Companies, was in accordance with the draught as settled with the legal adviser of this company, and subject to which only the agreement signed by your chairman was to be exchanged, your directors offered to leave this, the sole point in dispute, to the decision of any member of Parliament, or any gentleman of the legal profession, who should be named by the chairman of the Great Northern Company; but this proposition, your directors regret to say, was not accepted, and the arrangement therefore has failed."

To this the Great Northern and Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Companies have issued a reply, which, after setting forth the various terms offered both by the companies themselves, and through the mediation of other parties, says :—

"The refusal of the London and North Western Company released all parties from their submission to the deputations, and the joint committee, on the 7th April, informed the deputations that they must now claim to exercise their undoubted right to fix the rates and fares on their own railways; and they proposed a schedule of rates and fares, as to the acceptance or refusal of which by the London and North Western Company they have still no information whatever. The joint committee, since the third refusal of the London and North Western Company to abide by the recommendation or decision of the deputations, have not renewed their submission to the deputations; and the London and North Western Company employed in litigation the interval they had themselves requested for deliberation, contrary to the very decision of the deputations. The joint committee notice that, notwithstanding the question of the alliance of the Great Northern and Sheffield Companies is before a committee of Parliament, the London and North Western Company, encouraged apparently by the minute of the deputations, published an *ex parte* statement on Monday, the truthfulness of which the joint committee, not wishing to prejudice the pending question, for the present merely deny. The joint committee repeat their offer to raise the rates and fares to the scale proposed in their minutes of the 7th instant, and also their offer to allow the managers to meet to endeavour to reconcile any discrepancy; and leave the responsibility of refusal upon the London and North Western Railway Company."

The result of all this is, that for a long time the public have had the advantage of being conveyed to Manchester and back for 5*s*., with the privilege of remaining for a week. Now, these fares will either pay or they will not. If they are remunerative, then the high fares charged to all places on the respective lines, where competition cannot take place, are a gross fraud on the public, but if they are unremunerative, or what is more likely, are a decided loss, then an equally gross fraud is committed upon the shareholders. As we said in our number of November last, when alluding to the equally insane competition between the Great Western, the South Eastern and South Western, with respect to Reading (and which still continues), "If the various directorates—and perhaps the shareholders themselves are not altogether blameless—persist in pursuing such a destructive course, the sooner the legislature interferes, the better it will be for all concerned." In private commercial circles, business so conducted may speedily find its level, and almost invariably results in a visit to Basinghall-street; and we have within a short period seen the directors of another public institution figuring in even a less enviable position. It is just possible that as the law at present stands, railway directors may be enabled to steer clear of its meshes, as regards personal punishment; and if so, their moral delinquency is the greater. The fate of the directors of the Royal British Bank it was thought would have acted as a beacon to others and prevented them rushing headlong to destruction. Such, however, appears not to be the case; and as they will not take timely warning, it is to be hoped that, notwithstanding the multiplicity of business on its hands, Government will find time to place on the statute book a "break" which will prove as effectual in stopping the mad career of directors, as their own "breaks" are in stopping the velocity of their trains.

London and North Western.—The dividend declared by this company for the half-year was at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum out of 619,082*l.* profit, and carrying over 43,322*l.* to next account. The revenue account for the half-year showed that 1,658,803*l.* had been received for traffic, 17,594*l* for interest on cash balances and calls in arrear, 15,962*l.* for rent of land and buildings, 417*l.* transfer fees, 1,509*l.* Huddersfield Canal net traffic, and 56,265*l.* estimated dividends from investments in Lancaster and Carlisle, Chester and Holyhead, South Staffordshire, Manchester and South Junction, North London, Caledonian, and Scottish Midland—total receipts 1,750,551*l.* The working charges amounted to 669,363*l.*, the rates and taxes to 32,334*l.*, Government duty on passengers 29,515*l.* — together, 731,212*l.*; the interest on loans and debenture stock amounted to 233,125*l.*, chief rents and interest on land purchases to 4,637*l.*, expenses of Peterborough station to 2,500*l.*, Parliamentary and legal proceedings, balance of arrears, to 15,799*l.*; Preston and Wyre deficiency, 2,221*l.*; Buckinghamshire Railway, guaranteed rent, 18,299*l.*; North Union, guaranteed dividend, 21,084*l.*; Shropshire Union, deficiency, 13,623*l.*; Manchester and Matlock Railway, deficiency, 430*l.*; West London, 1,280*l.*; Canal leases deficiency, 1,359*l*; Stour Valley, dividend to proprietors, 9,413*l.*; Stockport, Disley, and Whaleybridge, proportion of traffic, 2,268*l.*; Haydon-square Depôt, interest, &c., 2,111*l.*; paid on account of loss from fire at Camden-station, 12,438*l.*; renewal of road, 56,667*l*; leaving a balance of 619,082*l.* against 673,530*l.* at the corresponding half of 1856. To the balance of 619,082*l.* is added 7,776*l.* from the preceding half-year, making a disposable sum of 626,858*l.* From this is deducted 526 204*l.*, the dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the consolidated stock, and other dividends. The capital account to the 31st of December showed that 22,770,987*l.* had been received on stock and shares, 399,701*l.* paid in advance of calls, 10,467,495*l.* on loans and debentures, and 402,830*l.* on the 3½ per cent. debenture stock, making together 34,041,013*l.*, upon the whole of which interest and dividend are charged to revenue. The expenditure on the lines, stations, and works of the company amounted to 24,336,091*l.*, on the carrying stock to 3,009,893*l.*, on lands and buildings of the company yielding rent to 411,662*l.*, and on 17 lines in which the company have an interest to 5,692,232*l.*; making the total expenditure 33,449,879*l.*, and leaving a balance of 591,134*l.*

Great Western.—The dividend declared by this company was at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, out of a disposable balance of 102,625*l.*, carrying over to the next account 20,253*l.* The general statement of receipts and expenditure showed that 12,903,771*l.* had been received on shares, including 1,341,979*l.* on irredeemable 4 per cent. stock, 129,000*l.* on redeemable 4 per cent. stock, 1,780,457*l.* redeemable 4½ per cent. stock, 1,013,957*l.* redeemable 5 per cent. stock, and 400,492*l.* preference stock, which has been issued for advances redeemable under special agreement. The receipts on debentures and loans amount to 10,622,283*l.* making the total receipts on capital account 23,526,054*l.* The total expenditure amounts to 23,253,027*l.*, leaving a balance of 273,207*l.* The total expenditure on capital account during the half-year amounted to 137,622*l.*, and during the preceding half-year 238,445*l.* The revenue account for the half-year showed that 847,452*l.* had been received, including 7,050*l.* rent from Bristol and Birmingham Railway and dividends on Cheltenham and Gloucester tramroad, 14,701*l.* for use of plant, 3,342*l.* interest on cash balances of the revenue account, and 6,349*l.* rent of Great Western hotel and other property. The expenditure—which includes 18,589*l.* for Government duty, 14,885*l.* rates and taxes, 3,500*l.* legal and Parliamentary expenses, and 1,500*l.* reserved for doubtful debts—amounted to 339,264*l.*, or 41·58 per cent. of the receipts, leaving a balance for the half-year of 508,188*l.* To this sum is added 10,011*l.*, balance from preceding account, 3,483*l.* balance of revenue for the half-year from Kennet and Avon Canal, and 14,634*l.* dividends on shares in the South Devon, South Wales, and Dean Forest Railways; total, 536,318*l.* From this sum is deducted 183*l.* for additional works; 20,188*l.* guaranteed annuities to Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth Railway, and Kennet and Avon Canal proprietors; 16,894*l.* rent charges for Gloucester and Dean Forest, Hereford, Ross, and Gloucester, and Wycombe Railways, and for the Paddington

estate; 9,533*l.* loss on lease of South Wales Railway; 2,000*l.* proportion of loss on Kennet and Avon Canal to the 30th of June, 1856; 262,750*l.* interest on debentures and loans; 1,331*l.* interest on Berks and Hants shares; 167*l.* interest on Henley Railway subscriptions; 104,304*l.* dividends on Great Western preference shares; and 16,340*l.* for deficiency during the half-year on Shrewsbury lines; making together 433,692*l.*, and leaving a disposable balance of 102,625*l.* The traffic receipts for the half-year on the Shrewsbury lines amounted to 128,649*l.* after deducting 6,817*l.* for their proportion of expenditure in respect of traffic over the Birkenhead line. The working and other expenses amounted to 76,026*l.*, leaving a balance of 52,616*l.* towards the payment of 19,968*l.* interest on debentures, and 48,988*l.* dividends for the half-year on the Shrewsbury preference and guaranteed shares, making together 68,956*l.*, and leaving a deficiency of 16,340*l.*, which is charged above in the Great Western general revenue account. At the corresponding period of 1856 the deficiency on the Shrewsbury lines amounted to 14,869*l.* On comparing the revenue receipts of the past half-year on the Great Western lines with those of the corresponding period of 1856, 847,452*l.*, against 795,353*l.*, an increase is shown of 52,099*l.*; and in the expenses—339,264*l.* against 309,350*l.*—of 29,914*l.*, and in the net receipts of 22,185*l.* The traffic on the Great Western lines in the year 1843 amounted to 575,000*l.*; in 1852, to 969,862*l.*; and in 1857, to 1,616,401*l.* In 1852 the working expenses amounted to 361,668*l.*, and in 1857 to 688,521*l.*, leaving a profit on the working in the former year of 608,194*l.*, and in the latter of 927,884*l.* On comparing the working expenses of the past half-year with those of the first half of 1857, 339,264*l.* against 349,257*l.*, a decrease in the expenses is shown of 10,000*l.*, notwithstanding that the traffic for the past half-year amounted to 78,499*l.* more than in the first half of 1857.

Great Northern.—The report of this company, which was adopted, stated that the capital expended to the 31st December, amounted to 11,299,299*l.*, including 47,458*l.* expended during the half-year; the cash and securities held by the company amounted to 116,590*l.* The gross receipts during the half-year ended December 31st last amounted to 662,044*l.*, and from which 4,200*l.* was deducted under the award of Mr. Gladstone, reducing the available receipts to 657,844*l.*, against 650,337*l.* at the corresponding half of 1856. The total expenditure for the half-year amounted to 341,213*l.*, leaving a balance of receipts beyond expenses of 316,630*l.* To this is added 728*l.*, the balance from the preceding half-year, and 8,400*l.* due from the Eastern Counties Railway, making a total of 325,758*l.* From this is deducted 108,969, the fixed charges, mortgage interest, &c., and 83,960*l.* for dividend on the several preference stocks, leaving 132,829*l.* applicable to ordinary dividend, which will give to the original stock 2*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* per cent. for the half-year, being at the rate of 5*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* per cent. per annum; to the B stock 5*l.* 8*s.* per cent. for the half-year, making, with the 12*s.* per cent. paid for the first half of the year, 6*l.* per cent. for the whole year on the B stock; and to A stock 2*s.* 6*d.* per cent.; leaving a balance of 317*l.* The purchase of the Great Northern and East Lincolnshire stocks fraudulently issued by Redpath, has been effected at a cost of about 230,000*l.*, under the provisions of the company's act of 1857; but the proceedings in Redpath's bankruptcy not being concluded, a complete account of this matter cannot yet be laid before the shareholders. The capital account to the 31st December showed that 11,415,890*l.* had been received, and 11,299,299*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 116,590*l.* The revenue account for the half-year showed that 657,844*l.* had been received, against 650,337*l.* at the corresponding half of 1856; and 341,213*l.*, or 51·86 per cent., expended, against 305,358*l.*, or 46·95 per cent., at the corresponding half of 1856; showing an increase in the receipts of 7,507, and in the expenses of 35,855, leaving the net revenue 316,630*l.*, against 344,979*l.*, as compared with the same half of 1856; and showing a decrease of 28,349*l.* in the net revenue.

London Brighton and South Coast.—The dividend declared by this company was 3½ per cent. for the half-year, out of a net profit of 165,391*l.*, leaving a balance to be carried forward of 3,742*l.* The amount of capital raised to the

31st of December, 1857, was 7,790,615*l.*, consisting of 1,936,335*l.* mortgage debt, 1,000*l.* debenture stock, 1,234,726*l.* preference capital, and 4,618,554*l.* consolidated stock. The total amount placed to the debit of capital during the half-year has been 326*l.*, making the total capital expended 7,799,253*l.*, and leaving a balance of 742*l.* The average rate of interest on the mortgage debt does not exceed 4*l.* 3*s.* per cent. The gross revenue for the half-year has been 431,361*l.*, showing a diminution of 2,211*l.*, as compared with the corresponding half of 1856; the total revenue for the year 1857 being, however, 780,587*l.*, as compared with 776,251*l.* for the previous year. The falling off during the past half-year is entirely in the goods traffic, while the receipts from passengers show a small increase. The number of miles run by the trains during the half-year was 1,048,946, against 963,103 in the corresponding period of 1856. The traffic receipts (excluding cartage) for the last half-year amounted to 419,183*l.*, against 421,079*l.*: and the total working expenses and renewals (excluding cartage) amounted to 180,882*l.*, against 183,450*l.* at the corresponding period of 1856. The ordinary expenses amounted to 151,245*l.*, and the renewals and additions to 29,637*l.*, against 151,510*l.* ordinary expenses, and 31,940*l.* for renewals and additions, at the corresponding period of 1856. The expenses per train mile amounted to 3*s.* 5½*d.* against 3*s.* 9¾*d.*, the per cent. on traffic receipts to 43¼ per cent. against 42⅛ per cent., the cartage to 7,611*l.* against 8,358*l.*, and the total expense 188,493*l.* against 191,808*l.*, at the corresponding period of 1856. From a tabular statement in the report, it appears that the number of passengers on the line for the year increased from 2,485,778 in 1848 to 7,241,077 in 1857, and the passenger receipts from 349,977*l.* to 545,835*l.*; the annual and season tickets from 10,427*l.* to 35,476*l.*; the parcels from 13,130*l.* to 18,479*l.*; the mails from 1,197*l.* to 1,243*l.*; the goods from 61,493*l.* to 133,733*l.*; the cattle from 3,059*l.* to 4,046*l.*; the rents, wharf earnings, &c., from 5,581*l.* to 14,402*l.*; and the gross revenue from 453,408*l.* in 1848 to 780,587*l.* in 1857. The working expenses increased from 147,132*l.* in 1848 to 282,589*l.* in 1857; the taxation from 39,955*l.* to 51,698*l.*; and the total expenditure from 187,087*l.* in 1848 to 353,955*l.* in 1857. The preferential charges have increased from 104,041*l.* to 148,167*l.*, and the dividend from 3*l.* 12*s.* per cent. in 1848 to 6*l.* per cent. in 1857. Although only one locomotive engine and one tender belonging to the working stock have been broken up during the past year, yet the revenue has again been debited with the cost of providing five new and powerful engines and tenders, and of rebuilding five of the old engines. In this manner the number of working engines has since 1851 been increased, at the cost of the revenue, from 112 to 124, and no corresponding credit has yet been taken for the value of the twelve old engines, which are still at work. The net amount at the credit of the revenue account, after providing for all preferential charges, was 165,391*l.*, out of which the directors recommended the payment of a dividend of 3½ per cent. for the half-year, amounting to 161,649*l.*, leaving a balance to the credit of the current half-year of 3,742*l.*, and making the dividend for the year 1857 amount to 6 per cent.

SOUTH EASTERN.—The dividend declared by this company for the half-year was 14*s.* for every 30*l.* share, or at the rate of 4*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per cent. per annum, out of a net balance of 175,381*l.*, and carrying forward 1,928*l.* towards the next account. The report of the directors stated that the gross receipts during the half-year ending 31st January, amounted to 557,104*l.* (including 24,772*l.* from steam-boat traffic), being a decrease of 26,438*l.* as compared with the half-year ending 31st of January, 1857. The ordinary working expenses during the half-year amounted to 192 295*l.*; the rates, taxes, tolls, and Government duty to 36,508*l.*; and the working of the steam-packet service to 14,758*l.* After providing for the fixed charges in respect of rents, interest, annuities, preference dividends, &c., there remained a net balance of 175,381*l.* available for dividend on the ordinary consolidated stock of the company. A dividend of 14*s.* per 30*l.* stock, or at the rate of 4*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per cent. per annum, would absorb a sum of 173,453*l.*, leaving a balance to be carried forward of 1,928*l.* and the dividend to be paid on the 4th of March. From an analysis of the receipts and expenditure it appeared there was a decrease in the receipts of 26,438*l.*, and in the expenses of 19,036*l.* showing a decrease of 7,402*l.* in the net receipts, as compared with the corresponding period of 1857. The mileage

run by the engines during the half-year has been 1,627,779 miles, at the average cost of 8 16*d.* per mile against 8·70*d.* at the corresponding period of the preceding year. Twelve miles of new rails, fish-jointed, have been laid down, and a considerable amount of new ballast has been introduced into the main line, and the road has been materially improved. The directors much regret to have to advert to an item of excess in the expenditure during the half-year, under the head of compensation paid for injuries occasioned by the distressing accident which occurred at Lewisham in June last. The amount paid during the half-year for compensation has been 15,933*l.* The total outlay on capital account amounted to 47,152*l.*, less 3,273*l.* received for surplus lands sold during the half-year. The directors intend to convert 1,000,000*l.* of the company's loans into a 4 per cent. debenture stock. The capital account showed that 11,579,711*l.* had been expended up to the 31st January last.

Eastern Counties.—The directors of this company declared a dividend for the half-year of 1*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per cent. out of a net balance of 102,052*l.*, and carried forward to the next half-year 7,256*l.* The report of the directors stated that the total receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of December last amounted to 713,773*l.*, and for the corresponding period of 1856 to 723,926*l.*, showing a decrease of 10,153*l.*; and that the working expenses amounted to 321,858*l.* for the past half-year, and to 363,483*l.* at the corresponding half of 1856, showing a decrease of 41,625*l.* in the working expenses, but an increase in the net receipts of 31,472. With regard to the capital account, it stated that no addition to that account has been made as regards the permanent way; all the charges incurred have been borne by revenue. As regards the locomotive stock no addition to capital has been made; on the contrary, 14,355*l.* has been spent out of revenue for new engines and carriages to replace plant unfit for use. There is an addition for land purchased of 2,349*l.*, and for new works of 1,942*l.*, the interest on which is to be paid by the associated companies, and 572*l.* for opposing the Pitsea and Colchester lines of last session. The directors during the half-year by placing all their spare cash on deposit have been enabled to reduce the charge for interest by 3,896*l.*, from 141,954*l.* in the half-year ending June, 1857, to 138,057*l.* ending the 31st of December last. The sum allowed by bankers for interest on deposits in the half-year was 6,101*l.* The directors believe that great benefit must ensue to the undertaking by not increasing the capital account without very substantial reasons. The portion of the gross receipts due to the Eastern Counties Company amounts to 567,090., the expenses to 321,859*l.*, and the interest on guarantees and loans to 138,057*l.*, leaving 107,173. To this sum is added 6,879*l.*, the balance from the June account, making 114,052. From this is deducted on account of deferred permanent way account 12 000*l.*, leaving 102,042*l.*, out of which the directors have declared a dividend of 1*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per cent. for the half-year on the consolidated stock of the company, leaving a balance of 7,256*l.* With a view to show the relative position of the company with the other associated companies, the report states that the gross receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of December, 1856, amounted to 691,700., and for the half-year ending the 31st December last to 682,011*l.*, showing a decrease of 9,689*l.*, being at the rate of 1*l.* 8*s.* per cent., while the decrease in the expenditure amounted to 41,625*l.*, or 11 per cent. On taking another view of the accounts a loss in the working and division of the traffic of the associated companies is shown of 33,271*l.* for the half-year ending the 31st of December, 1856, while a gain of 3,782*l.* is shown for the half-year ending the 31st of December, 1857. With regard to the deferred permanent way renewal fund, in 1856, prior to the accounts for December being closed, the amount at the debit of this account was 137,760*l.* Various large sums have since been written off this account from revenue; during the present half-year the further sum of 12,000*l.* charged against revenue has been credited to this account, and the balance is now reduced to 77,769*l.* The total decrease in the three half-years' accounts has been 60,000*l.*, all borne by revenue.

London and South Western.—The dividend declared at the meeting of this company, was at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum subject to income tax for the

half-year, out of a net balance of 194,755*l.*, and leaving a balance of 7,234*l.* The report stated that there had been a decrease in the gross revenue of the half year of 42,296*l.*, as compared with the corresponding period in 1856, and in the net revenue of 38,870*l.* There had been a decrease of 2,317*l.* in the working expenses, and of 1,109*l.* in taxation. The decrease in the receipts for passengers amounted to 32,148*l.*, for goods to 10,687, as compared with the corresponding period. The above decrease has arisen chiefly from the exceptional character of the traffic in the year 1856, in consequence of events connected with the Russian war. In preparation for the working of the Salisbury and Yeovil line, a portion of which it is expected may be opened for traffic during the present year, and also for the working of the Lymington branch, a number of new engines and carriages are in course of construction, on account of which 16,048*l.* have been expended and carried to capital account. The report of the locomotive superintendent, stated that the cost of maintaining and working the stock of locomotive engines and tenders during the past half-year has been 55,568*l.*, and the train mileage 1,549,232*l.*, giving 8.61*d.* as the rate per train mile for the working expenses of the locomotive department; the expenditure in the carriage department for maintaining and upholding the carriage and waggon stock has been 10,624*l.*, or 1·64*d.* per train mile. The expenses of both departments amount to 66,192*l.*, or 10·25*d.* per train mile, as compared with 66,652*l.*, or 10·69*d.* per train mile of the corresponding period of last year. The locomotive engines and tenders are in efficient condition, and the stock of carriages and waggons has been maintained in good working order, several alterations and improvements having been made therein. The capital account showed that 9,506,225*l.* had been received, including 2,502,036*l.* on loan, and 9,603,406*l.* expended, leaving a balance against the company of 97,181*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st December last showed that 445,860*l.* had been received, and 193,575*l.* or 44·61 per cent. expended, including 21,940*l.* for Government duty, rates and taxes, leaving the balance of net revenue, 252,285*l.*

London and Blackwall.—The dividend declared by this company was 3*s.* 6*d.* per share. The report stated that the net revenue for the half-year ending the 31st of December last amounted to 25,540*l.*, and that, after deducting therefrom 6,205*l.* for interest on the debenture capital, there remained 19,335*l.*, out of which the directors recommend that a dividend of 3*s.* 6*d.* a share be paid, which would amount to 19,097*l.*, and leave 257*l.* Since the commencement of the current half-year there has been a marked improvement in the traffic, which encourages the hope that the period of its depression has passed. Two new sources of revenue will be opened in the course of a few weeks, viz.—the Bow and Barking branch of the Tilbury line, and the new goods station at the Minories, from which an important increase in the receipts may reasonably be expected. The capital account shows that 1,653,558*l.* had been received, and 1,749,770*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 96,212*l.* against the company. The revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of December last showed that 43,362*l.* had been received and 18,102*l.* expended, leaving a balance, with 140*l.* from the last account, of 25,540*l.*

North London.—The dividend of this company for the half-year was 2¼ per cent. The report stated that the revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of December last, with the balance of 102*l.* from the previous account, amounted to 67,241*l.*, and the expenditure to 38,972*l.*, leaving a profit of 28,269*l.*, and after providing for the interest on debentures there remained a net balance of 20,891*l.*, out of which the directors recommended a dividend of 2¼ per cent. for the half-year. The receipts from the goods traffic show an increase over the corresponding period of 1856 of 1,877*l.* House-building in the neighbourhood of the line has been wholly suspended, and the anticipated increase of traffic from the increase of the local population has consequently been interrupted. The directors hoped that the large outlay which they had arranged to make during the half-year in renewing and improving the permanent way with new sleepers and fish-jointed rails would have been more than covered by the ordinary increase of the traffic

receipts. The directors have thought it right to charge the whole of the expenditure on this account against the revenue of the half-year; and they would not recommend the proprietors to postpone any portion of the sum so expended to a future period. The suspense account, opened in January, 1856, for distributing over the succeeding four half-years the special expenditure then incurred for locomotive repairs, will be fully paid off by the amount charged in the present account. The capital account showed that 1,326,911*l.* had been received, including 12,151*l.* from revenue, and the same amount expended. The revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of December last showed that 67,138*l.* had been received and 38,972 expended, including 2,030 for dock and wharf charges, 1,785*l.* taxation, 6,118*l.* toll to Blackwall Railway Company, and 1,583*l.* interest on loans, leaving a balance of 28,166*l.*

Ambergate, Nottingham and Boston.—The dividend declared by this company was 3*s.* 3*d.* per share. The report stated that the extension line and station at Nottingham were opened to the public on the 2nd of October last, and the various works and buildings were all completed at the end of the year. The directors believe that 1,000,000*l.* will cover the expenditure of the undertaking. The net amount received from the Great Northern Company during the past six months was 1,500*l.* in excess of the amount received for the same half of 1856. The balance at the credit of revenue amounts to 13,788*l.*, out of which the directors recommend a dividend of 3*s.* 3*d.* per share, payable on the 10th of March. The capital account showed that 1,007,519*l.* had been received, including 10,000*l.* from revenue, and 1,003,243*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 4,276*l.* The revenue account showed that 17,904*l.* had been received from the railway and canals, and 4,322*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 13,782*l.* for the half-year ending the 31st of December last.

Blackburn.—This company did not declare any dividend. It appeared from the report that the increase of traffic during the past half-year, notwithstanding the depression of trade in the district, amounted to 483*l.* as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The agreement between this company and the Lancashire and Yorkshire and East Lancashire Companies, provisionally entered into by the directors in November last, was confirmed at the extraordinary general meeting on the 7th of December, 1857. The directors, in conjunction with the Lancashire and Yorkshire and East Lancashire Companies, are applying to Parliament for the necessary powers to carry the agreement into effect. The capital account showed that 1,040,534*l.* had been received, and 1,071,599*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 31,065*l.* against the company. The revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of December last showed that 26,313*l.* had been received and 12,044*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 14,167*l.*

Birkenhead, Lancashire and Cheshire Junction.—The dividend declared by this company in accordance with the report of the directors, which stated that the expenditure on capital during the half-year amounted to 18,335*l.*; that loans amounting to 50,920*l.* had been replaced and renewed during the half-year; that the directors purposed creating, at the earliest practicable time, a debenture stock bearing a fixed rate of interest (not exceeding 4 per cent.), to replace the present debenture debt of the company; that, in order that the company might be prepared to accommodate the expected accession of new business, the directors requested permission to raise a sum not exceeding 30,000*l.*, either on loan or by the issue of the above-named debenture stock. The revenue account of the past half-year showed an increase over the corresponding period of 7,179*l.* The total income of the past half-year amounted to 79,992*l.*; the working charges to 31,672*l.*; passenger duty, 1,552*l.*; renewal fund, 2,500*l.*; debenture interest, 9,152*l.*—total, 44,877*l.*; leaving a balance for dividend of 35,114*l.*, out of which the directors recommended the payment of dividend after the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum

payable on the 10th of March, 1858, carrying a balance of 1,138*l.* to the next account.

BLYTH AND TYNE.—The report of this company, which was unanimously adopted, stated that the gross income for the past half-year, together with the balance brought from the previous half-year, was 36,340*l.*, and, after deducting 24,926*l.*, the working charges, interest on debentures, and other outgoings, a balance remained of 11,413*l.*, out of which the directors proposed to pay the usual dividend of 10*l.* per cent. upon the preference shares, and 7*l.* per cent. (being an increase of one-half per cent. upon the last dividend) upon the ordinary and extension shares, leaving a balance of 3,277*l.* for the next half-year's account. The receipts showed an increase of 5,276*l.* over the corresponding period, of which 4,962*l.* was derived from coals. The expenditure showed an increase of 1,403*l.*, and the net increase amounted to 4,821*l.*

BRISTOL AND EXETER.—The dividend of this company was at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year. The report stated that the interest on the preferential capital and debt of 1,724,738*l.* averages 4*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* per cent. The expenditure on capital account amounted on the 31st of December last to 3,236,392*l.*, showing an increase of 4,546*l.* during the half-year. The gross traffic receipts on the line, including those of the Exeter and Crediton, and Somerset Central Railways, amounted to 171,363*l.*, being 8,140*l.* less than in corresponding half of 1856. The working expenses amounted to 80,562*l.*, or 46·49 per cent., leaving a balance of 90,801*l.* The passenger traffic was seriously affected in the early part of the half-year by the diversion of pleasure travelling to the Exhibition of Fine Arts at Manchester. The deficiency of the goods traffic arose partly from the continual competition with the Great Western Railway Company for traffic from the north of England, and from Bristol to Yeovil and the adjacent district, and partly from the severity of the monetary crisis in the latter part of the half-year. The local traffic had, however, remained unimpared. The balance of the revenue account, including 3,742*l.* from the previous half-year, amounted to 60,041*l.*, and admitted of a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending the 31st of December last, leaving a balance of 10,041*l.*; being 1,296*l.* in excess of the balance carried forward at the corresponding half of 1856.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.—At the meeting of this company, the usual dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, for the half-year was declared out of the rent paid by the London and North Western Company.

CHESTER AND HOLYHEAD.—The dividends declared by this company, were in accordance with the report which stated that the receipts exhibit a general increase of 3,625*l.* in traffic over the railway and 1,526*l.* in the steam-boats as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, notwithstanding a falling off in the earnings from merchandise and live-stock. The working expenses, on the other hand, show a decrease of 396*l.* The general result is an available balance to the credit of revenue of 38,948*l.*, from which the directors recommend payment of the full dividend for six months on the first preference stock at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum, and a further payment as for eighteen months at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum in liquidation of arrears of dividend on the second preference stock to the 30th of September, 1857. From the 38,948*l.* balance to the credit of revenue is deducted 17,325*l.* for dividend on the first preference stock, and 19,811*l.* for the dividends on the second preference stock at 5 per cent. per annum, leaving a balance of 1,811*l.* The revenue earned during the past twelve months is sufficient not only to meet the full dividends on the entire of both preference stocks, but leaves a balance of 17,127*l.*, which, in the absence of preference arrears, would be applicable to the payment of a dividend on the ordinary stock of the company. The net balance of revenue for the year 1857 amounted to 131,921*l.*, the interest

on debentures to 53,894*l.*, the 5½ per cent. dividend on the first preference to 34,650*l.*, and at 5 per cent. on the second preference to 26,250*l.*, leaving the balance as above, 17,127*l.* The capital account to the 31st of December last, showed that 4,306,329*l.* had been received, and 4,343,962*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 37,632*l.* against the company. The revenue account for the half-year showed that 142,756*l.* had been received on the railway, and 70,328*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 72,428*l.* The receipts for the steam-boat service amounted to 29,193*l.*, and the expenses, including 2,826*l.* for insurance, and 3,808*l.* for depreciation, to 27,848*l.*, leaving a balance of 1,344*l.*

Cornwall.—There was no dividend declared by this company. The report stated that owing to the unexpected change in monetary affairs and the great scarcity of money, the directors had not up to the 31st of December last been able to obtain more than 39.666*l.* of the 300,000*l.* authorised to be raised on the guaranteed preference shares; but the whole amount has been since allotted, and they have been obliged to refuse a considerable number of applications. The receipts during the past half-year have amounted to 68,596*l.* the expenditure has been 72,450*l.* The capital account to the 31st of December showed that 1,183,331*l.* had been received, and 1,154,842*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 28,489*l.*

East Lancashire.—The dividend declared by the directors of this company was at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum for the half year out of a net balance of 52,017*l.*, leaving 2,893*l.* to be carried to the next account. The report stated that the gross receipts for the half-year ending 31st of December amounted to 162,587*l.*, the working expenses to 68,000*l.* and the fixed charges, including interest on loans and preference dividend, to 42,570*l.*, leaving a balance of 52,017*l.* The reduction in the dividend as compared with that of the corresponding half of 1856, was caused by a large decrease in the traffic, arising from the late commercial panic and the consequent stagnation of trade in the entire district through which the railway passes. The decrease, as compared with the corresponding half-year in 1856, amounts to 11,919*l.* The above balance of 52,017*l.* would enable the proprietors to declare a dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum; but the directors considered it more prudent to pay a dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum only. The receipts on capital account during the past half-year amounted to 51,985*l.*, and the expenditure to 52,703*l.* No new loans had been contracted at a higher rate than 4½ per cent., and a considerable sum had been borrowed at 4½ per cent. The capital account showed that 4,024,743*l.* had been received, and 4,013,410*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 11,333*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending 31st of December last showed that 162,587*l.* had been received, and 68,000*l.*, or 41·82 per cent. expended, leaving a balance of 94,587*l.*

Eastern Union.—The dividend declared for the half-year was at the rate of 2*l.* 8*s.* per cent. per annum on the A stock, and of 1*l.* 12*s.* per cent. on the B stock, out of a net balance of 9,716*l.* The report stated that 47,118*l.* had been received from the Eastern Counties Company for the half-year ending the 31st of December last. The directors believe that the company is entitled to a considerably larger sum. The half-yearly proportions of the joint traffic since the union of the three companies, according to the accounts rendered by the Eastern Counties Company (but not admitted by the directors of the Eastern Union to be correct), have been for the half-year ended the 30th of June, 1854, 38,315*l.*; ended the 31st of December, 1854, 43,233*l.*; ended the 30th of June, 1855, 39,948*l.*; ended the 31st of December, 1855, 45,031*l.*; ended the 30th of June, 1856, 41,219*l.*; ended the 31st of December, 1856, 49,075*l.*; ended the 30th of June, 1857, 42,925*l.*; and the 31st of December, 1857, 47,118*l.* The balance of 1,138*l.*, added to the preceding sum, gives a total of 48,256*l.* From this is deducted 38,540*l.* for debenture interest, rents, and other preferential charges, leaving a balance of 9,716*l.* They state that a very large amount of traffic remains undeveloped in the district of the united lines,

whereas the Eastern Union Company's share of the traffic for the half-year ended on the 31st of December, 1856, showed an increase of 4,043*l.* over the corresponding half-year of 1855, yet the traffic for the past half-year has been so worked as apparently to show a decrease when compared with the corresponding period of 1856 of 1,956*l.*, and that, too, while the Eastern Counties Company state the decrease on the gross traffic for the half-year at 9,689*l.*, the one-seventh of which (less working expenses) would be but 747*l.* The directors state that the claims of the Eastern Union and Norfolk Companies on the Eastern Counties Company during the last four years will, if substantiated, give to each of the two smaller companies an increase to their net income of from 3,000*l.* to 6,000*l.* a-year. The capital account shows that 3,119,723*l.* had been received, and 3,117,739*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 1,984*l.*

Furness.—The half-yearly dividend of this Company, was at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum. The report stated that the net revenue for the half-year ending the 31st December last amounted to upwards of 12,500*l.*, and including 2,978*l.* from the previous half-year, the balance of the revenue account amounted to 15,533*l.* The total receipts for the year 1857 amounted to 68,222*l.*, and for the year 1856 to 55,362*l.*, showing an increase of 12,860*l.* The working and other expenses in 1857 amounted to 31,063*l.*, and in 1856 to 23,639*l.*, showing an increase of 7,424*l.* In consequence of the losses which the recent state of commercial affairs has caused to the iron ore merchants, the directors propose that a special drawback of 3*d.* per ton be made to the merchants upon the quantity of iron ore conveyed during the past half-year. This drawback will amount to nearly 3,500*l.* and will be paid out of the surplus revenue. The directors propose to issue the debenture stock at a rate of dividend not exceeding 4 per cent. per annum, for the purpose of paying off the debentures and preferenee shares. The balance-sheet showed that 546,155*l.* had been expended on the railway. The revenue account for the half-year showed that 35,960*l.* had been received and 16,521*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 19,439*l.* Out of this is deducted 6,883*l.*, the interest on loans and preference shares, leaving 12,556*l.*, to which is added 2,978*l.* from the previous account, making a disposable sum of 15,534*l.*

Hull and Selby.—The dividends declared were according to the following recommendation of the directors, who stated, that the balance in hand for the last half-year is 33,839*l.*, which would afford a dividend of 2*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* on each of the whole or 50*l.* shares ; of 1*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* on each of the half or 25*l.* shares ; and of 12*s.* 4½*d.* on each of the quarter or 12*l.* 10*s.* shares, subject, as usual, to the deduction of income tax.

Lancashire and Yorkshire.—The dividend of this company was at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, and the balance carried forward was 11,956*l.* The report stated that the total share and mortgage capital chargeable on revenue for the half-year ending the 31st of December last amounted, exclusive of leased lines, to 13,593,608*l.* The total receipts during the half-year ending the 31st of December last amounted to 599,855*l.*, and the expenses to 243,762*l.*, leaving a balance of 356,093*l.* The balance of net revenue applicable to the payment of dividends on the ordinary stock of the company amounted to 205,743*l.*, and out of this the directors recommend to the proprietors to declare a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, less income-tax, and to carry forward the balance, 11,956*l.*, to the next account. Although the balance of the net revenue account would enable the proprietors to declare a dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent. for the half-year, the directors think it undesirable to adopt that course, as the consequences of the recent depression in trade are still felt in the diminished receipts. It was stated at the meeting, that up to the end of October last there was a fair probability of even a larger dividend than was declared for the previous half-year, the increase of traffic up to that time having been about 32,000*l.* upon the corresponding period of last year. At the end of

October, the traffic began to diminish, especially in the goods department. From a decrease of about 5,000*l.* per week, the reduction had fallen off to about 1,300*l.* per week, so that it might be reasonably hoped that the traffic had not been permanently interfered with. In the month of December last, the weight of goods conveyed by the company was 62,927 tons less than in the same month of 1856, and equivalent to a loss of 20,090*l.* in net profit, to which must be added a falling off in the passenger traffic, which amounted to 2,100*l.* The total receipts from all sources during the half-year ending December 31, 1857, were 643,345*l.*, as against 633,551*l.*, in the half-year ending December, 1856, showing an increase of only 9,794*l.* In the last half-year the expenditure had been 264,414*l.* against 252,718*l.* in the last half of 1856, so that the increase was 11,696*l.*

Lancaster and Carlisle.—At the half-yearly meeting the following report was adopted. The capital account showed that 1,744,291*l.* had been received, including 220,481*l.* on loans to the 31st of January last, and 1,753,652*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 9,361*l.* due to the bank. Of the 220,481*l.* received on loan, 73,000*l.* was borrowed at 4½ per cent., 88,081*l.* at 4½ per cent., 6,400*l.* at 4¼ per cent., 22,500*l* at 4 per cent., 2,300*l.* at 3½ per cent., 17,900*l.* at 3½ per cent., and 10,300*l.* at 3¼ per cent. The renewal fund shows that 30,852*l.* had been received and 16,350*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 14,502*l.* It appears the company's working stock consists of 65 engines, 65 tenders, 721 waggons, 46 sheep vans, 32 break vans, 620 sheets, 21 carts and trolleys, 1 parcel van, and 22 horses. The revenue for the half-year ending 31st of January amounted to 176,748*l.*, and the expenses to 63,173*l.*, leaving a balance, including 1,390*l.* from the preceding account, of 114,965*l.* From this is deducted 1,600*l.* balance of Parliamentary expenses, 4,000*l.* transferred to renewal fund, 70,100*l.* for dividend at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, 1,997*l.* interest on loans, 33, 646*l.* Lancaster and Preston Company's proportion of net profits, leaving a balance of 3,621*l.* The gross receipts for the half-year showed an increase of 10,080*l.* over those of the corresponding period of the preceding year, and the expenses a decrease of 5,986*l.*, making together an increase in the net revenue of 16,066*l.*

Lancaster and Preston Junction.—The dividends declared by this company were in accordance with the subjoined report:—"The half-yearly revenue shows a balance of 36,765*l.*, out of which the directors recommend the appropriation in dividends of 35,892*l.*, and the payment of interest on debt of 736*l.*, leaving a balance of 135*l.* They recommend that the dividend for the half-year ending the 31st of January last on the whole share be 2*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, on the three-quarter share 1*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*; on the quarter share 14*s.*; on the one-twelfth share 4*s.* 8*d.*; and on the 11¼*l.* share 9*s.* 3*d.* They stated that the share register is correct. It appears the share capital of the company amounts to 676,330*l.* of which 35,208*l.* remains to be called up on the 11¼*l.* shares. The dividend exceeds 5½ per cent. for the half-year, or 11 per cent. per annum on the capital."

Llynir Valley.—The dividend declared for the half-year was at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax. The report stated that the accounts for the last half-year continued to show a satisfactory improvement in the receipts, notwithstanding the temporary falling-off in the traffic. At the end of last year, consequent on the generally depressed state of trade, the receipts from all sources of income had amounted to 6,979*l.* against 6,250*l.* for the corresponding period of the preceding year, showing an increase of 729*l.* in favour of the last six months. The balance of net profit was 3,028*l.*, which, carried to the general revenue, made a total of that amount of 11,613*l.*

Llanelly.—A dividend of 1*l.* per share for the half-year being at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum, was declared by this company, leaving a reserve of 605*l.* The report stated that the revenue of the company for the half-year amounted to

12,099*l.*, and the working expenses to 7,692*l.*, leaving a gross profit of 4,406*l.* The interest on debentures amounted to 1,418*l.*, reducing the net surplus to 2,988*l.* Adding to this the balance of the previous half-year there remained for the year 1857 a profit of 5.129*l.*; the preferential dividends in the same period were 2,554*l.*, leaving 2,575*l.* for dividend on the ordinary shares. The capital account showed that 315,190*l.* had been received, and 304,532*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 10,657*l.*

MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD AND LINCOLNSHIRE.—The dividend of this company for the half-year was 10*s.* per 100*l.*, being at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum, and the balance carried forward was 2,465*l.* The accounts for the half-year showed a total revenue of 310,719*l.* from all sources, a total expenditure of 154,233*l.*, and a balance of net profit of 156,485*l.*, which, with the balance of 1,046*l.* from the previous half-year, gives a total sum of 157,531*l.* available for interest and dividend. The debenture and other interest charges against the half-year amount to 65,675*l.*, the canal annuities to 13,734*l.*, the dividend on debenture stock to 350*l.*, the dividend on the 6*l.* preference shares to 23,686*l.*, the dividend on the 3½ per cent. preference stock to 5,959*l.*, and the dividend on the 6 per cent. preference stock to 26,160*l.*; making a total charge against the above net balance of 157,531*l.* of 135,564*l.*, leaving 21,967*l.* available for dividend on the ordinary stock of the company. The debenture debt of the company falling due on the 1st of January, 1858, has been paid off or renewed under circumstances, upon favourable terms, though the directors have been compelled to renew loans falling due at 3½ or 4 per cent., at rates of 4½ and 5 per cent. The company's traffic receipts show an increase for the half-year of 22,148*l.* The local receipts of the company for passenger traffic have been 69,990*l.*, as against 64,844*l.* in the corresponding half-year of 1856. The receipts for foreign passenger traffic have been 26,239*l.* as against 16,040*l.* in the corresponding half-year of 1856, showing a total increase in the passenger traffic of 15,345*l.* The increase on the goods traffic has been 4,810*l.*, and upon the mineral traffic 1,020*l.* The working expenses of the railway show a net increase of 13,896*l.* The maintenance and renewal of working stock cost 28,342*l.*, against 22,186*l.* in corresponding half of 1856. The expenses of the canals amounted to 22,802*l.* against 20,074*l.*, showing an increase of 2,728*l.* The capital account exhibits an increase of 35,789*l.*, of which 29,846*l.* is for land and works sanctioned at the date of the last half-yearly meeting, and 5,943*l.* for new works ordered during the half-year. The works in progress are the graving dock at Grimsby, upon which 25,112*l.* has been expended; a new hoist, at Manchester, estimated to cost about 3,850*l.*; extension of sidings at Ardwick, estimated cost 2,000*l.* A new warehouse has just been completed at Ardwick, at a cost of 1,900*l.* The net profit of the year ending the 30th of June, 1853, was 175,084*l.*, while that of the year just ended is 305,831*l.*, showing an increase of 130,747*l.* The capital account showed that 8,923,912*l.* had been received, and 8,883,306*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 40,106*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending December, 31, showed that 310,719*l.* had been received, including 34,094*l.* for the canals, 5,566*l.* rents, 8,172*l.* receipts from the South Junction line. The expenditure in working the railway amounted to 131,431*l.*, or 49·99 per cent., and the canals to 22,802*l.*, or 66·87 per cent., making together 154,233*l.*, and leaving a net profit, as above, on the working, of 156,485*l.*

MARYPORT AND CARLISLE.—The half-yearly dividend declared was at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, subject to deduction of income tax. The report stated that the receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of December last amounted to 27,937*l.*, and the expenses to 13,255*l.*, leaving a balance of 14,682. The relaying of the most defective portions of the line has been continued during the past half-year. The balance for the half-year, after carrying 2,245*l.* to the credit of the renewal and contingency account, was 9,113*l.* The capital account to the 31st of December shows that 477,722*l.* had been received, and 516,465*l.* expended, leaving a balance against the company of 38,743*l.*

MIDLAND.—The half-yearly dividends declared by the company were as follow (less income-tax)—of 2*l.* 10*s.* upon each 100*l.* consolidated stock; 1*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* upon each 100*l.* consolidated Birmingham and Derby stock; 3*l.* upon each 100*l.* preference and Erewash Valley stocks; 2*l.* 5*s.* upon each 100*l.* 4½ per cent. preferential stock; 7*s* 6*d.* upon each 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* share; 2*l.* upon each 100*l.* Leicester and Hitchin preferential stock; and the full amount upon other preferential shares, leaving a balance of 8,706*l.* for the next account. The capital account to the 31st of December last showed that 16,190,676*l.* had been received on shares, and 4,522,305*l.* on debentures; total, 20,712,981*l.* The expenditure amounted to 20,453,034*l.*, including 137,309*l.* during the past half-year, leaving a balance of 259,947*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of December showed that 911,824*l.* had been received, and 414,689*l.* expended, including 25,170*l.* rates and taxes and Government duty, and 15,000*l.* for permanent way renewal debt, leaving a balance of 497,135*l.* Out of this is deducted 197,375*l.* interest on loans and dividends on guaranteed stock and shares, 988*l.* for Buxton and Matlock Railway deficiency, and 500*l.* for redemption of mortgage debentures, leaving, with 2,834*l.* from preceding half-year, a disposable balance of 301,105*l.* against 269,608*l.* at the corresponding half of 1856, showing an increase of 31,497*l.* The increase in merchandise traffic amounted to 22,533*l.*; in minerals to 12,190; and in passengers to 17,614*l.*, together, 52,337*l.*; but, deducting 511*l.* less receipts for cattle, leaves the total increase on traffic 51,826*l.* The balance available for dividend amounts to 301,105*l.*, of which 2,834*l.* is brought from the previous half-year. The working expenses have been 41*l.* 16*s.* 41*d.* per cent. as against 41*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* per cent. during the corresponding half-year of 1856. In their last report the directors stated it to be their intention to pay off by instalments the debts which had accumulated against the fund for the renewal of permanent way; and in future to charge the whole cost of maintenance and renewal, as it should arise, against the revenue of each half-year. They have accordingly reduced the debt by crediting the account with the sum of 15,000*l.* from the revenue of the past half-year, which has likewise borne the entire charge of its own renewals and repairs.

MONKLANDS.—A dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum was declared, and the report stated that, compared with the previous half-year, there was a decrease of 891*l.* in the gross receipts, but in consequence of a considerable reduction in the working expenses the net balance exceeded that of the former half-year by 199*l.*

NORFOLK—A dividend was declared of 2*l.* per cent. for the half-year. The report stated that the amount credited to the Norfolk Company by the Eastern Counties Company, as their proportion of the joint earnings, is 47,118*l.*, which after deducting the interest on guaranteed stocks and loans, leaves a balance of 19,979*l.* The capital account to the 31st of December, shows that 2,229,635*l.* had been received, and 2,222,748*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 6,886*l.*

NORTH DEVON.—The dividend declared by this company was at the rate of 16*s.* 8*d.* per cent., and a balance carried to next account of 10*l.* The report stated that the total ordinary capital to the 31st of December last, amounted to 327,953*l.*, less 34,661*l.* forfeited, and not entitled to any dividend, leaving 293,292*l.* entitled to dividend. The 6 per cent. preference capital amounted to 38,421. The debenture interest for the past half-year amounted to 3,132*l.*, and the dividend on the 6 per cent. preference capital to 1,152*l.* The traffic returns for the six months, show a total gross receipt of 12,658*l.*, as compared with 12,530*l.* for the corresponding period last year. The capital account shows that 496,174*l.* had been received, and 494,386*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 1,788*l.* The revenue account for the half-year showed that 6,051*l.* had been received and 536*l.* expended, leaving the net revenue 5,515*l.*

NORTH AND SOUTH WESTERN JUNCTION.—A dividend of 2*s.* 6*d.* per share for the half-year was declared. The report stated that the receipts for passenger traffic show a steady increase. They amounted, for the half-year ending December, 1855, to 666*l.*, ending December, 1856, to 738*l.*, and ending December, 1857, to 828*l.* The receipts from general merchandise and minerals have decreased. In consequence of changing the dates of payment of interest on debentures to January and July, the interest on ten months instead of six months is charged to the revenue of the half-year, making an excess of 246*l.* The capital account shows that 83,773*l.* had been received in respect of the main line, and 19,141*l.* in respect of the Hammersmith branch, making together 102,914*l.*, and the expenditure to 81,779*l.* on the main line, and 21,653*l.* on the branch—total, 103,432*l.*, leaving a balance of 518*l.* against the company. The revenue account showed that 2,958*l.* had been received during the half-year ending the 31st of December, and 1,317*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 1,641*l.*

NORTH EASTERN.—The dividends declared by this company were as follows:—On the Berwick stock at the rate of 5*l.* per cent. per annum for the half-year out of a net revenue of 180,808*l.* leaving a balance of 13,771*l.* to be carried forward to the next half-year's account. On the York stock at the rate of 4*l.* per cent. per annum out of 72,379*l.* net revenue carrying over a balance of 8,001; on the Leeds stock at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum out of a revenue of 18,875*l.*, leaving 1,462*l.* to be carried forward; and on the Thirsk and Malton stock at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum out of 1,019*l.* revenue and carrying over 19*l.* The report stated that the gross receipts on the company's lines for the half-year ending 31st December last amounted to 980,387*l.*, and for the corresponding period of 1856 to 932,829*l.*, showing an increase of 47,560*l.* or 5·10 per cent. The working expenses for the past half-year amounted to 475,000*l.*, and for the corresponding period of 1856 to 455,772*l.*, showing an increase of 19,238*l.*, or 4·22 per cent. The net receipts for the past half-year amounted to 505,379*l.*, and for the corresponding half of 1856 to 477,057*l.*, showing an increase of 28,322*l.*, or 5·94 per cent. After providing for the rents, guaranteed dividends, and other preferential charges, and carrying 55,000*l.* to the fund for the renewal of permanent way, the amounts above stated remained available for dividends to the ordinary shareholders. The capital account showed that 14,779,818*l.* had been received on shares of the Berwick, Hartlepool, York, Leeds, Malton and Driffield, and Thirsk and Malton lines; and 6,948,380*l.* on loans, making together 21,728,198*l.* The expenditure on the Berwick and Hartlepool lines amounted to 11,829,947*l.*, on the York line to 5,866,287*l.*, on the Leeds line to 2,667,578*l.*, on the Malton line to 320,833*l.*, on the Thirsk and Malton 104,943*l.* (less 54,943*l.* charged to Berwick account), and on the joint account to 1,320,600*l.*; making together 22,055,244*l.*, and leaving a balance against the company of 327,046*l.* The total net receipts on revenue account during the past half-year amounted to 518,854*l.*, of which 296,266*l.*, or 57·1 per cent., belonged to the Berwick line; 170,703*l.*, or 32·9 per cent., to the York line; and 51,885*l.*, or 10 per cent., to the Leeds line.

NORTHERN AND EASTERN.—At the half-yearly meeting of this company the usual dividends, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the 5 per cent. stock, and of 6 per cent. per annum on the 6 per cent. stock, were declared, subject to deduction of income-tax.

NEWCASTLE AND CARLISLE.—The dividend of this company was at the rate of 3 per cent. for the half-year, making, with a previous dividend of 2½ per cent., a total of 5½ per cent. for the year. The report stated that the directors congratulate the shareholders on the increase in the revenue, which exceeds by 4,177*l.* that of the preceding year, and, after providing for the dividend, a sum of 7,509*l.* has been added to the reserve fund, which now amounts to 24,788*l.* They propose in future to set aside 8,000*l.* a-year for the renewal of the permanent way. The sum of 4,175*l.* was expended on capital account during the year 1857, of which 3,796*l.*

was for new waggons. The capital account exhibits a total expenditure of 1,918,078*l.*, including 86,798*l.* expended on the relaying of the main line, and 206,291*l.* upon the construction of the Alston branch. The revenue account for the year 1857 shows receipts to the amount of 179,465*l.*; expenditure, 108,073*l.*; leaving a balance of 71,391*l.*, of which 28,763*l.* was absorbed by the dividend paid in September last, leaving a balance of 42,627*l.* applicable to dividend for the latter half of the year.

North Staffordshire.—A dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum was declared out of a net balance of 57,000*l.*, and 1,072*l.* carried forward. The report stated that the total receipts for the last half-year were 132,798*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, for the last half-year of 1856, 124,839*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*; for the total year 1857, 256,709*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*; for the total year 1856, 235,031*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*; showing an increase of 21,677*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* The working expenses for the last half-year were 63,720*l.*; for the last half-year of 1856, 60,744*l.*; for the total year, 1857, 124,718*l.*; for the total year 1856, 117,696*l.*; showing an increase of 7,022. Of the canal the total receipts of the last half-year were 70,168*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*; for the last half-year of 1856, 72,928*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*; for the total year 1857, 144,452*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*; for the total year 1856, 145,881*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*; showing a decrease of 1,428*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* The working expenses for the last half-year were 30,145*l.*; for the last half-year of 1856, 29,124*l.*; for the total year of 1857, 58,623*l.*; for the total year of 1856, 59,007*l.*; showing a decrease of 384*l.* The capital account showed 107,050*l.* raised on debentures during the last half-year, making, with previously existing capital, total receipts, 4,030,080*l.* 10*s.*; expenditure for the last half-year, 9,449*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*, making with that previously expended, 4,000,098*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*; balance, 29,981*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* The general revenue account showed on the credit side, balance of railway revenue, 65.464*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*; canal net profit, 39,059*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*; London and North Western Railway Company's account, 8,112*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*; balance in settlement of old accounts, 1,002*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*; balance undivided 30th June, 3,243*l.* 6*s.*; total, 116,882*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*; total at same date last year, 112,699*l.*; on the debit side, interest on bonds and land purchases, 28,371*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*, less interest received on cash balances, 1,737*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, 26,634*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*; dividend on canal preference shares, 29,250*l.*; law charges, 1,173*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*; bad debts on railway account, 224*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*; reserve fund transferred, 2,000*l.*; total, 59,282*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*; total for same date last year, 60,823*l.*; balance, 57,600*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, which, after subtraction of 56,527*l.* 9*s.*, 4 per cent. dividend on 2,826,372*l.* 10*s.*, left a balance undivided of 1,072*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*

Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton.—The dividends delared by this company out of a working balance of 69,614*l.* were 6 per cent. on the first, and 3 per cent. on the second guaranteed stock. The report stated that the gross receipts of the half-year ending 31st December, 1856, were 111,773*l.*; those for the past half-year, exclusive of the Stratford Canal, are 118,894*l.*, the difference being 7,121*l.* in favour of the past half-year. The working expenses for the same periods were, in 1856, 56,931*l.*, and in 1857, exclusive of the Stratford-on-Avon Canal, 52,254*l.*, being less in the present half-year by 4,676*l.* The money for dividend is increased therefore by 7,121*l.* of additional receipts, and by a saving of 4,677*l.* in the working expenses, amounting together to 11,798*l.* The amounts applicable to payment of fixed charges, interest, and dividend were—in the half-year ending June 30, 1856, 28,414*l.*; ending December 31, 1856, 54,842*l.*; ending June 30, 1857, 57,407*l.*; ending December 31, 1857, 69,614*l.* (including 2,974*l.* net receipts of Stratford Canal). The capital account showed an increase of 15,689*l.*, of which sum 6,269*l.* was for new sidings and works, 2,874*l.* for plant and fixtures, and 4,258*l.* for land and compensation. The capital account to the 31st of December, showed that 4,246,273*l.* had been received, including 22,036*l.* from revenue, and 3,967,552*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 278,721*l.*

SHREWSBURY AND HEREFORD.—The dividend declared was in accordance with the report, which stated that up to the 31st of December last 586,550*l.* had been expended on capital account, leaving a balance of 1,591*l.* The traffic receipts for the last half-year amounted, for passengers, parcels, &c., to 20,887*l.*, and for goods and minerals to 20,705*l.*; total, 41,592*l.*, against 38,845*l.* for the like period of 1856, showing an increase of 2,747*l.* The train mileage run in earning the above receipts was, by passenger trains, 70,238 miles, and by mineral and goods trains 96,423 miles. The rent receivable from the lessee amounted for the past half-year on ordinary share capital at 4 per cent. to 7,434*l.*, on preference share capital at 4½ per cent. to 1,041*l.*, and interest on debenture and loans to 3,960*l.*; total, 12,435*l.*

SHROPSHIRE UNION.—A dividend was declared for the half-year at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum. The net earnings for the half-year were 10,537*l.*, the net railway earnings at 8,140*l.* and the outstanding accounts due to the company 50,857*l.*

SOUTH DEVON.—The report stated that the disposable balance for the half-year ending the 31st of December last amounted to 22,145*l.*, from which, after the payment of preferential charges, the directors proposed a dividend at the rate of 1*l.* 13*s.* per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock of the company, leaving a balance of 2,506*l.* The traffic receipts amounted to 70,406*l.*, while those of the corresponding period of the previous year were 71,914*l.* The working expenditure had been 35,027*l.*, as compared with 35,506*l.* in the same half of 1856.

SOUTH WALES.—The half-yearly dividend was at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum out of a net balance of 62,357*l.*, leaving 2,871*l.* to be carried forward. The report stated that the receipts from traffic during the half-year showed an increase of about 8,000*l.* as compared with the receipts of the corresponding period of 1856. The capital account shows that 4,432,866*l.* had been received, and 4,402,981*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 29,884*l.* The revenue account shows that 188,505*l.* had been received during the half-year, and 113,447*l.* expended, a balance of 75,657*l.*

SOUTH YORKSHIRE.—The dividend was at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum out of a net revenue of 20,647*l.*, and carrying over 733*l.* to the next account. The report stated that the gross income for the half-year amounted to 73,079*l.* from the railway and navigation, and the expenditure to 30,264*l.*, or 41·4 per cent., leaving a balance of 42,815*l.* To this sum was added 109*l.*, the balance from the preceding half-year, making the available sum 42,924*l.* The charges for interest on loans and debentures, and rent of Sheffield Canal, amounted to 22,276*l.*, which, deducted from the balance of 42,924*l.*, left 20,647*l.* for dividend. The gross revenue receipts for the past half-year compared with the corresponding half of 1856 showed an increase of 4,488*l.*, or 6·5 per cent., and had been earned at an increased expense of 1,312*l.* The working expenses on the railway amounted to 50·7 per cent. of the receipts, and of the navigation to 28 per cent. The capital account shows that 2,151,298*l.* had been expended, leaving a balance of 30,382*l.* in hand.

STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON.—The report, which was adopted, stated that the total revenue for the half-year ending the 31st of December last, including the traffic of the Middlesborough and Guisborough and Darlington and Barnard Castle lines, amounted to 198,686*l.*, the total expenses and interest to 120,042*l.*, leaving 78,646*l.* available for rentals and dividends. After deducting all amounts payable there remained sufficient to allow of a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, and a balance of 2,000*l.* to be carried to the next account. The capital account showed that 1,650,955*l.* had been received, and 1,581,450*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 69,505*l.*

TAFF VALE.—The dividend declared was at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less income-tax. The capital account to the 31st of December last showed a total receipt of 1,053,688*l.*, and an expenditure of 1,124,093*l.* leaving a balance against capital of 70,405*l.* The revenue account for the last half-year exhibited a gross receipt of 104,523*l.*, less expenses 60,796*l.*, leaving a balance of 43,727*l.* After payment of interest on loans, rents, and waggon charges, amounting to 21,072*l.*, there remained a disposable surplus of 22,655*l.* applicable to dividend, to which must be added 12,483*l.*, brought from the preceding half-year, making together an available balance of 35,138*l.*

VALE OF NEATH.—The dividend declared was at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, subject to income-tax. The report stated that the receipts for the half-year ending 31st of December amounted to 42,064*l.*, and for the corresponding half of 1856 to 39,089*l.*, showing an increase of 7·61 per cent. The balance available for dividend was 14,638*l.* The capital account showed that 923,223*l.* had been received, and 934,762*l.* expended, leaving a balance against the company of 11,539*l.* The revenue account for the half-year showed that 42,064*l.* had been received, and 21,263*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 20,801*l.*

WHITEHAVEN AND FURNESS.—The dividend declared was 2*s.* per share, or at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum. The report stated that the gross traffic receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of December amounted to 12,570*l.*, showing an increase of 2,594*l.* over the corresponding period of 1856. The balance of revenue account carried to profit and loss amounts to 6,414*l.*, and, after deducting interest on loans and 5½ per cent. preference shares, there remained a balance of 1,452*l.* A comparative statement of the receipts and expenditure showed that the gross receipts for the half-year ending 31st of December, 1855, amounted to 7,519*l.*; ending 31st of December, 1856, to 9,976*l*; and ending 31st of December, 1857, to 12,570*l.*, while the expenditure amounted to 4,971*l.*, 4,470*l.*, and 6,155*l.* respectively. The expenditure on capital account during the half-year amounted to 3,789*l.* for new works and rolling stock. The capital account shows that 429,779*l.* had been received, and 466,680*l.* expended, leaving a balance against the company of 36,901*l.*

WHITEHAVEN JUNCTION.—The dividend declared was 8*s.* per share, less income tax, out of 2,605*l.* balance of revenue. The report stated that the traffic receipts for the half-year amounted to 12,291*l.*, being an increase of 1,066*l.* over the corresponding half of 1856. The expenditure amounted to 7,381*l.*, being 2,001*l.* over the same half-year of 1856. The large increase of 1,287*l.* under the head of maintenance of way arose from the renewals of rails, chairs and sleepers which had been effected during the past six months. The balance of revenue account amounted to 4,209*l.* from which had to be deducted 2,333*l.* for interest on preference shares, loans, &c., and 212*l.*, the last instalment of charges for the investigation of the company's accounts in 1856, leaving 2,605*l.*

WEST CORNWALL.—There was no dividend declared by this company, the directors not deeming it prudent to do so. The report stated that the passenger traffic during the half-year ending the 31st of December amounted to 8,085*l.* against 7,651*l.* in the corresponding half of 1856, and 7,685*l.* in the same half of 1855; while at the same time the total receipts had been 16,065*l.*, 14,904*l.* and 15,631*l.* respectively. With an increase of more than 1,000*l.* in the receipts the balance of profit carried over to the credit of general revenue account was less by nearly 100*l.* than in the corresponding period of 1856. About 834*l.* of the extra expense was attributable to the reballasting of the line, and 200*l.* to increased taxation. The general account shows an available balance of 5,833*l.*

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—The dividend was at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum for the half-year. The report stated that the amount credited for revenue for the last twelve months is 176,732*l.* 12*s.* 5*d*; to debit of working expenses, 79,492*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*; of taxation, 2,113*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*; and a surplus of 95,126*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* The total amount expended is 2,178,225*l.* on the harbour, docks and railway, and it is anticipated that the cost of the harbour and docks will not exceed 9,000*l.* per acre, and of the railway 20,000*l.* per mile.

WEST LONDON.—The report stated that a resolution was passed at the last half-yearly meeting in August authorising a division of 1*l.* per share among the first-class preference shareholders; a sum of 3,200*l.* was thus distributed. The accounts for the past half-year showed a balance to the credit of revenue of 1,415*l*, in respect of which the directors recommend a further division at the rate of 5*s.* per share to the same class of shareholders. The directors report a decrease in the traffic on the Kensington Canal, when compared with the last half-year, of 9,470 tons, and of 250*l.* in the amount earned. The balance-sheet showed that 309,849*l.* had been received and 308,067*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 1,782*l.* The revenue account from the 30th of June, 1849, showed that 18,263*l.* had been received and 16,847*l.* expended (including 3,527*l.* for legal expenses, and 9,600*l.* paid to the holders of first-class preference shares), leaving a balance of 1,415*l.* The report was agreed to.

SCOTCH LINES.

CALEDONIAN.—The dividend here was at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, leaving £3,824 to be carried forward. The report stated that the revenue account showed a balance of 106,172*l.*, out of which was deducted 16,766*l.* for dividend on the original preference stock, and 8,443*l.* on new preference shares, leaving 80,962*l.* The revenue for the half-year ending the 31st of January last amounted to 350,654*l.*, and for the corresponding period of last year to 330,353*l.*, showing an increase of 20,301*l.* The working expenses amounted to 131,959*l.*, or 37*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* per cent., against 137,064*l.*, or 41*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* per cent., showing a decrease of 5,105*l.*, and of 3*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* per cent. The average rate of the debenture interest is 4*l.* 9*s.* 8¾*d.*, as compared with 4*l.* 9*s.* 10¼*d.* for the corresponding period to the 31st of January, 1857. The capital account to the 31st of January amounted to 8,491,927*l.*, and the expenditure to £8,410,962*l.*, leaving a balance of 80,965*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of January last showed that 354,237*l.* had been received, and 138,898*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 215,339*l.* Out of this is deducted 4,689*l.* for duty, 57,048*l.* interest on loans, 1,431*l.* debenture charges, 3,200*l.* Parliamentary expenses for Hawick line, and 42,798*l.* guaranteed dividends, leaving a balance of 106,172*l.*

CALEDONIAN AND DUMBARTONSHIRE.—The dividend declared was at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. The report stated that the receipts for the half-year ending 31st of January last amounted to 7,268*l.*, and the expenses to 3,332*l.*, leaving a net profit of 3,935*l.* The total expenditure on capital account amounted to 251,279*l.* The capital for dividend amounts to 183,510*l.*

EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW.—The dividend of this company was at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum for the half-year, and a balance of 1,287*l.* carried forward. The report stated that the receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of January last show an increase of 4,421*l.* over the corresponding period of the preceding year. The working expenses show a reduction of 1,963*l.*—viz., 54,944*l.*, or 38 per cent., against 56,907*l.* On the other hand there is an increase of 1,002*l.* on the charge for interest, and of 2,500*l.* on the amount necessary to set aside for the Stirling and Dunfermline Company. These, with other charges, leave the net

balance of revenue at 44,088*l.* The sum of 13,522*l.* has been paid out of capital for new works. The balance payable for these works is estimated at 16,500*l.* It is also estimated that 12,000*l.* will be required for additions to rolling stock, so that the capital account may be considered closed for all works now on hand, with the exception of the above sums—28,500*l.* in all. The capital account shows that 3,659,394*l.* had been received and 3,629,166*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 30,228*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending January 31st shows that 151,111*l.* had been received and 59,541*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 91,570*l.* Out of this are deducted 24,096*l.* interest on loans, and 23,375*l.* rents and dividends to other companies, leaving 44,088*l.*

Dundee, Perth and Aberdeen Junction.—The dividend was at the rate of 1 per cent per annum, leaving a balance of 119*l.* The report stated that the receipts for traffic amounted to 21,707*l.*, the surplus on the Newtyle line to 459*l.*, and the balance from last half-year to 172*l.*, making a total of 22,339*l.* From this was deducted 8,257*l.* for working expenses, 5,294*l.* for debenture interest, 66*l.* for expenses, and 631*l.* interest on debts due by the company, making 14,249*l.*, and leaving 8,089*l.* The average rate of interest paid on the debenture debt of the company was at the rate of 4*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* per cent. The sum of 4,544*l.* had been added to capital during the past half-year for land claims, and additional station accommodation.

Forth and Clyde Junction.—Here there was no dividend declared. The report stated that the receipts for the half-year ending 31st January last amounted to 7,625*l.*, and the expenses to 4,879*l.*, leaving a balance of 2,746*l.* To this is added 634*l.*, the balance from the preceding half-year, making 3,380*l.* From this is deducted 2,061*l.*, the interest on loans, leaving a balance of 1,319*l.* The dividend on the preference shares to 31st of January last at 5 per cent. per annum amounted to 131*l.*, leaving 1,188*l.*, which would be sufficient to pay a dividend at the rate of 2¼ per cent. per annum upon the ordinary stock of the company, but the directors recommend that the balance be carried forward to the next half-year's account, and that in the meantime it be applied to payments on account of capital.

Glasgow and South Western.—The dividend declared was at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum for the half-year. The report stated that the total expenditure was 4,598,012*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* The unproductive capital invested in lines in course of construction amounted to 40,377*l.* 10*s.*—viz., in the Castle Douglas and Dumfries Railway, 25,500*l.*; and in the Maybole and Girvan Company, 14,877*l.* 10*s.*—in addition to which a deposit of 6,000*l.* has been paid on account of the Port-Patrick line. Owing to the stagnation of trade which has so universally prevailed for some time, the revenue did not present that favourable contrast with the corresponding half-year which might reasonably have been anticipated, the whole increase amounting only to 895*l.* The working expenses form 38½ per cent. of the gross revenue, as contrasted with 36¾ in the corresponding period. The average rate now payable on the whole debt is 4*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* per cent. The 342,110*l.* of additional capital by the issue of new 10*l.* 5 per cent. perpetual guaranteed shares, has been readily taken up; the applications for stock, beyond the amount at the disposal of the directors, having been numerous. After deduction of working expenses, interest, and other charges, the balance remaining at the credit of the revenue account was £74,642 19 8
Undivided profits of previous half-year 1,987 18 0

Less—dividends on guaranteed stocks..... 10,156 5 0

Leaving a disposal balance of £66,474 12 8

Of this amount the board recommend the shareholders to appropriate 62,500*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* in declaring a dividend on the ordinary stock of the company

and the Ardrossan guaranteed stock, at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, payable on Monday, 29th March, under deduction of income-tax, the balance of 3,974*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* being carried forward to the credit of the current half-year.

NORTH BRITISH.—A dividend at the rate of 2¾ per cent. per annum, for the half-year was declared. The report stated that the total receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of January last amounted to 142,569*l.*, against 139,453*l.* at the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 3,116*l.*; and the working expenses to 87,501*l.*, or 38·84 per cent., against 83,904*l.*, or 37·44 per cent., showing an increase of 3,597*l.*, leaving the balance 55,068*l.* against 55,548*l.* at the corresponding period of last year. To the 55,068*l.* is added 2,988*l.* from the previous half-year, making 58,055*l.*, applicable to dividend. The dividend on the guaranteed stock amounts to 22,630*l.*, leaving 35,425*l.*, out of which the directors recommend a dividend on the ordinary stock at the rate of 2¾ per cent. per annum for the half-year, leaving a surplus of 1,021*l.* for the next account. The capital account shows that 4,524,800*l.* had been received to the 31st of January, and 4,490,964*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 33,854*l.*

SCOTTISH CENTRAL.—The dividend for the half-year was at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum. The report stated that the total receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of January last amounted to 78,822*l.*, and the total expenditure, including preference charges, to 49,734*l.*, leaving a net balance of 30,088*l.*, being 549*l.* more than at the corresponding period of last year. The profits have been materially lessened by the increased expenditure. Interest and taxation are upwards of 1,100*l.* in excess of the corresponding period of last year. In addition to the ordinary outlay in the locomotive department, 2,025*l.* have been expended during the half-year in renewals of carriage and waggon plant. The capital account shewed that 1,810,671*l.* had been received and 1,859,935*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 49,264*l.* against the company. The revenue account showed that 78,822*l.* had been received during the half-year ending the 31st of January last, and 33,717*l.* expended, leaving a profit on the working of 45,105*l.* Out of this is deducted 15,016*l.* for interest on loans and on 5 per cent. and 4½ per cent. preference shares, leaving a balance, as above, of 30,089*l.* for dividend on the ordinary shares.

SCOTTISH NORTH EASTERN.—The dividends were declared in conformity with the report, which stated that the revenue fund amounted to 93,738*l.*, and the expenditure to 45,337*l.*, leaving a balance of 48,400*l.*, divisible as follows:—To Aberdeen revenue account, 33,800*l*; to Scottish Midland revenue account, 14,520*l.* After deducting interest and all preferable charges, the balance available for dividend in Aberdeen capital stock for the half-year is, with a former surplus, 12,903*l.*; and after giving dividends due on the 6 and 3½ per cent. stocks respectively, a balance is carried to next half-year of 8,100*l.* The report further states that the half-year's revenue shows an increase over the corresponding half-year of 3,854*l.*, and that the surplus on the half-year applicable as dividend on Scottish Midland stock is 11,901*l.*

IRISH LINES.

BELFAST AND COUNTY DOWN.—The dividend declared was 15*s.* per share, out of 4,667*l.* revenue, leaving a balance of 1,088*l.* The report stated that the receipts of the half-year ended 31st January, amounted to 7,589*l.*, showing an increase of 135*l.* over the corresponding period of the preceding year. This was a satisfactory result, considering the stagnation of trade in the last half-year. The traffic receipts showed a progressive improvement. In the year ending 31st January, 1855, the receipts amounted to 13,069*l.*; ending 31st January, 1856, to 13,488*l.*; ending 31st

January, 1857, to 14,490*l.*; and ending 31st January, 1858, to 15,261. The working expenses amounted to 5,933*l.*, 5,626*l.*, 6,016*l.*, and 5,921*l.*, respectively.

CORK AND BANDON.—The report stated that there was a steady increase in the traffic receipts. The increase amounted to 1,072*l.* during the past half-year. The working expenses include an extra outlay of 523*l.* on the working stock. The revenue account to the 31st of December shows a surplus of 1,764*l.*, out of which the directors recommend a dividend on the No. 1 preference shares at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, and on the No. 2 preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, for the half-year, leaving a small balance. The capital account to the 31st of December last, shows that 360,256*l.* had been received, and 258,951*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 1,305*l.* The revenue account showed that 7,815*l.* had been received, and 4,314*l.* expended, including 409*l.* arrears of former accounts now paid, leaving a balance of 3,501*l.*, to which was added 3,649*l.* from the preceding account, making 7,150*l.* Out of this was deducted 909*l.* interest on No. 1 preference shares, 658*l.* on No. 2 preference shares, 657*l.* debenture interest, and 1,878*l.* arrears of interest, leaving a balance of 3,047*l.*

DUBLIN AND DROGHEDA.—The dividend declared was at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum for the half-year, and a balance of 3,566*l.* carried over. The report showed that the receipts for the past six months exceeded those for the corresponding half-year of 1856, by the sum of 1,234*l.*, while the working expenses exceeding those of the same period by only 227*l.*, showing an increase in the profits of 1,007*l.* In consequence, however, of the unprecedentedly high rate of interest which prevailed during the past half-year, the amount payable by the company for interest in that period was larger than during the corresponding period, by 907*l.* The profits of the half-year, after paying working expenses, were 27,593*l.*, and from this was deducted the balance of interest on loans and dividends on preference shares, amounting to 11,271*l.* which left a net balance of 16,322*l.*

DUBLIN AND WICKLOW.—Out of a revenue of 9,269*l.*, a dividend of 2*s.* per share was declared and a balance of 4,497*l.* carried to next account. The report stated that the receipts on the Kingstown line for the half-year ending 31st December last amounted to 32,209*l.*, and the expenditure, including rent and all other charges, to 27,997*l.*, showing a surplus of 4,912*l.*, being 2,743*l.* more than at the corresponding period of 1856. The receipts on the Wicklow line amounted to 17,728*l.*, being 6*l.* more than at the corresponding half-year of 1856. The total receipts of the two lines amounted to 50,650*l.*, and the expenses to 17,564*l.*, leaving 33,086*l.* Out of this 16,213*l.* has been paid to the Kingstown company, leaving 16,873*l.* To this added 10,504*l.*, the balance from the previous half-year, making 27,377*l.* From this is deducted 10,950*l.* for interest on loans and rents, and 7,158*l.* for dividend declared in August last, leaving 9,269*l.* The capital account of the Wicklow company shows that 915,008*l.* had been received, including 9,269*l.* from revenue, and 912,172*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 2,836*l.*

DUBLIN AND BELFAST JUNCTION.—A dividend was declared at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less income tax, and 1,980*l.* carried forward. The report stated that the receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of December last amounted to 33,204*l.*, being 1,835*l.* in excess of the corresponding half of 1856. During the past three years the traffic receipts of the line have increased about 33 per cent. from 43,382*l.* in 1854 to 57,559*l.* in 1857, being 14,177*l.*, or 33 per cent. The total income of the company for the half-year amounted to 37,116*l.*, and the total expenses, including interest on loans, to 19,053*l.*, leaving a balance of 18,064*l.* The final call of 5*l.* per share has been satisfactorily responded to, 70,885*l.* having been paid on account of it before the end of 1857. The capital account shows that 1,092,233*l.* had been received and 1,114,116*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 21,883*l.* against the company. The revenue account for the half-year ending 31st of December last

showed that 37,116*l.* had been received, and 11,135*l.* expended in working the traffic, and 7,917*l.* paid for interest on loans and advances, leaving a balance of 18,064*l.*

DUNDALK AND ENNISKILLEN.—There was no dividend declared. The report stated that the total receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of December, 1856, were 11,818*l.*, while those for the past half-year had been 13,213*l.*, showing an increase of 1,394*l.* The directors having taken legal advice, had charged against revenue 3,515*l.*, being the amount of dividend on the whole of the preference shares, including the amount expended on unproductive work. The balance available for dividend on the original shares had been thus reduced to 547*l.* Since the last meeting the Dublin and Drogheda and Belfast Junction companies had paid up the whole of their subscription of 60,000*l.* to the company. The capital account to 31st December showed that 578,540*l.* had been received on shares and loans, and 575,091*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 3,448*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending 31st December showed that 13,212 had been received, and 7,286*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 5,926*l.*

IRISH SOUTH EASTERN.—A dividend at the rate of 3*l.* 15*s.* per cent., subject to income-tax, was declared, and 437*l.* carried over. The report stated that the income exceeded the expenditure for the half-year by 4,144*l.*; to which was added the previous half-year's balance of 409*l.*; making the total surplus 4,553*l.*

LONDONDERRY AND ENNISKILLEN.—The report stated that the traffic receipts for the half-year ending 31st December last amounted to 20,110*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, being an average of 773*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* per week. For the corresponding period of 1856 the receipts were 19,162*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, an average of 737*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* per week. The increase over the correponding period of 1856 was 947*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, and was chiefly obtained previous to the commencement of the commercial crisis in October last. The expenditure on revenue account for the past half-year was 10,065*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* against 9,354*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* in 1856—an increase of 711*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* The net profits for the year 1857, as compared with the years 1856 and 1855, stood thus:—1857, net profits, 18,110*l.*; 1856, 16,499*l.*; 1855 12,558*l.*; showing in the space of two years an increase of 44 per cent. in the net earnings of the line. The accounts showed a disposable balance of 5,609*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* This sum was sufficient, after payment of dividend on the 6 per cent. 10*l.* shares, to give a dividend of 4*s.* 6*d* each on the 12*l.* 10*s.* preference shares. This dividend the directors recommended to be declared. After payment of this there would remain a balance of 126*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* to be carried over to the next account.

MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN.—A dividend for the half-year at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum was declared, and a surplus of £4,627 carried to the next account. The report stated that the receipts on the line from Dublin to Athlone and the Longford and Cavan branches amounted for past half-year to 46,137*l.* for passengers and mails, and to 31,786*l.* for goods and cattle, making together 77,923*l.*, against 79,459*l.* at the corresponding period of 1856, showing a decrease of 1,536*l.*, which is ascribed to the stagnation of trade. The total income from the railway and canal amounted to 85,363*l.*, and the disbursements to 54,257*l.*, leaving a net profit of 31,106*l.* To this is added 3,752*l.* from the last half-year, making a disposable sum of 34,858*l.*

ULSTER.—A dividend of 30*s.* per share less income tax, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, was declared, and 5,014*l.* carried to the reserve fund. The report stated that the earnings during the past six months amount to 38,498*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, the working expenses to 13,625*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, interest on borrowed money to 3,961*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, and interest allowed to those proprietors who paid on their allotment of forfeited shares in June last to 777*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, leaving a balance available for dividend and reserve fund of 20,134*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*

THE WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND.

THE circumstances connected with the late failure of the Western Bank of Scotland were brought before the House of Commons, on the 16th April, by Mr. Brady, who had previously given notice of a motion on the subject. In introducing the subject, the hon. gentleman said :—

"He regretted that some Scotch member had not brought this subject under their notice, inasmuch as the failure of the bank had brought deep calamity on Scotland. The bank was established some 25 years ago; but almost from the commencement the management was so bad that there was no hope of its ultimate success; and this was the case especially during the last two years of its existence. A gentleman had placed the charges against the directors in his hands, and he would briefly state them to the house. In the first place it was alleged that the clause by which the directors were bound, on the loss of one-fourth of the capital, to call the shareholders together, was altogether avoided or neglected. In the second place it was alleged that, for many years, bad and doubtful debts were carried forward as good assets, and a balance was struck, and a dividend was declared, which was paid out of capital. The directors had declared that the bank was in a state of prosperity when they knew that it was in an utter state of bankruptcy, and they had declared a dividend of 9 per cent. in order to carry out the swindle. The result of this system of imposition was that hundreds of people who had invested their money in the bank were ruined, and some of them were now in madhouses. A gentleman well-known to some members of that house had written to him that, on the strength of the reputation of the directors, he had bought stock within one month of the collapse of the bank, and that he had been virtually swindled out of £2,000. The hon. gentleman then proceeded to urge various charges against the directors, amongst which were that they sent out large sums of money to America for investment, which were lost, and that they had discounted bills with a reckless disregard to security. He might be told that Mr. Taylor, the manager, had acted contrary to the wishes of the directors. It would appear that Mr. Taylor had entire control over the funds, and that he used them as if they were his own. But the directors were responsible for his acts, and he (Mr. Brady) hoped that they would be brought to the bar of justice for the ruin which had been inflicted on hundreds of families. He had lately put a question to the Lord Advocate as to whether it was the intention of the Government to take proceedings against the directors of the bank, and the reply he got was that, as he (the Lord Advocate) was then advised, he could not take proceedings, as no evidence had come before him which would justify action on his part. Now, he was told that at the time the Lord Advocate gave that reply he was the legal adviser to the bank. If such were really the fact, he did not think the Lord Advocate was in a position to give such an answer. (Hear, hear.) After some further remarks, the hon. gentleman concluded by stating that he had brought the matter before the house through no personal feeling, but simply in the discharge of his duty as a public man. (Cheers.)

The Lord Advocate said he did not rise to defend either the principle on which the bank was conducted, or the gentlemen who had acted as directors. (Hear, hear.) He did not offer any opinion as to the personal culpability of the directors. With regard to himself, he begged to state that while the bank carried on business, at the time it stopped payment, and on its being wound up, he was consulted professionally by directors, liquidators, shareholders, and creditors, and he had endeavoured to discharge his duty to all.

(Laughter.) He denied that, under all the circumstances, he was called upon as public prosecutor in Scotland to institute proceedings against the directors. He had not before him any information which would justify him in taking that course. That was his position when he replied to the honourable gentleman before—and that was his position at the present moment. (Hear, hear). It did seem strange that those who had supplied the hon. gentleman with information had not thought fit to lay that information before the public authorities in Scotland. (Cries of hear, hear.) As a public prosecutor, he was not bound to act as a minister of police—nor was it his duty to hunt out crime; on the contrary, the true theory of his duty was that he should not, as Lord Advocate, prosecute except on the complaint of interested parties. With certain exceptions, that was the general rule which ought to be followed; and it was peculiarly applicable to commercial frauds, because it was impossible that a public officer, such as he was, could be able, to possess himself of materials, even for an enquiry, without the assistance of such parties. (Hear, hear.) He was informed that there had been meetings of the shareholders, and that the opinion of these meetings was that, while the directors had been guilty of neglect of duty, there was nothing in their conduct that could be made the subject of a public prosecution. Not one shareholder had laid a complaint before the public authorities. But the shareholders had done what was better; they had organised a committee to investigate the whole affairs of the bank. He had received a letter from the chairman of that committee, in which it was stated that they engaged in the work allotted to them, and that they did not anticipate such disclosures as would call for criminal proceedings against the directors. (Hear, hear.) Under these circumstances he contended that he would not have been justified in wasting the public money in conducting an investigation for the shareholders.

Mr. E. Ellice contended that further proceedings should take place, either in the form of a prosecution, or of a bill for preventing such disasters in future. Thousands of poor persons had been induced to place their money in the bank, owing to the supposed respectability of the directors; the ruin and distress had been immense. It was imperatively necessary that the position of banks should receive greater publicity.

Mr. Blackburn said that the depositors would lose nothing; their claims would ultimately be satisfied in full. Not one of the directors had appropriated the money of the bank; they were all great losers by its failure. He did not know why this bank should be singled out among the many large houses which had failed during the crisis.

Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald contended that there had been neglect so gross on the part of the directors that it amounted to criminality. He considered inquiry of some kind to be necessary.

Mr. P. Moncrieff deprecated prosecutions undertaken in compliance with popular feeling, without any communication of the facts to the proper authorities. In the case before them they should wait till the state of the bank was more fully investigated by the ordinary tribunals.

Mr. O'Brien protested making a question of public morality depend upon the pecuniary result of the affairs of the bank.

Mr. Buchanan repeated that the directors of the Western Bank had not taken any part of the funds, and were depositors in the bank. He denied the charge of conspiracy made against the directors. They were men who bore the character of the highest honour and respectability.

Mr. Atherton admitted that the directors had stuck by the bank, and had involved themselves and their relatives in the common ruin. But their declaration of a dividend which they were not in a condition to pay was

the declaration of a falsehood. He hoped the Lord Advocate would see reason to institute proceedings in the matter.

After a few words from Mr. Hope Johnson, Mr. Finley, Mr. H. Stuart, Mr. Drummond, Sir E. Colebrooke, Mr. Barrow, and Mr. Cowan (the latter denouncing the accommodation bill system, as it had existed in Glasgow, where worthless bills had been issued in one year to the enormous extent of £383,000).

Mr. A. Turner condemned the conduct of the bank in question. A large ingredient in the cause of the recent panic was the withdrawal from our market of the money to meet the emergencies in Scotland.

The conversation then dropped.

COLONIAL BANKING COMPANIES.

A SUPPLEMENTAL Parliamentary return has recently been published of the colonial banking companies in existence, and the nature in each case of the liability of the shareholders. Subjoined are the general points. Among the Leeward Islands, St. Kitt's and Dominica have respectively a branch of the Colonial Bank incorporated by Royal Charter. In Montserrat, Nevis, and the Virgin Islands, no banking company is established. At the Cape of Good Hope there are 19 banks, all unincorporate, and with unlimited liability. In the Falkland Islands there is no bank. At Hong Kong there is a branch of the Oriental Bank, which is a chartered corporation, with liability limited to double the amount of the share, and a branch of the Agra and United Service, on the constitution of which the agent gives no particulars. The Canton branch of the Commercial Bank of India, which is unincorporate and with unlimited liability, is temporarily located at this settlement during the war with China. The Mercantile Bank of India, which, although possessing a charter, has unlimited liability, is likewise established there. At Mauritius there is the Commercial Bank, with liability limited to double the amount of the share, and a branch of the Oriental Bank. At Natal there is one bank, under the name of the Natal Bank, incorporated by the local Legislature, with liability to double the amount of the share. In New South Wales there are eight—the Australian Joint-Stock Bank, the Bank of New South Wales, the Commercial Banking Company, the Oriental Bank Corporation, the London Chartered of Australia, the English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered, the Bank of Australasia, and the Union Bank of Australia, all incorporated, with liability limited to twice the subscription, except the latter, which is unincorporate with unlimited liability. In South Australia there are three—the South Australian Banking Corporation and the Bank of Australasia, both incorporated, and with liability limited to double the subscription, and the Union Bank of Australia, unincorporate and unlimited. In Tasmania (Van Diemen's Land) the number is five—the Commercial, the Bank of Van Diemen's Land, the Bank of Tasmania, and the Union of Australia, all unincorporate and unlimited; and the Bank of Australasia, incorporated and limited to double the subscription. In Victoria there are eight—namely, the Union of Australia, unlimited and not incorporated; the Bank of New South Wales, the Bank of Australasia, the Oriental Bank, the English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered, the London Chartered, the Colonial of Australasia, and the Bank of Victoria, all incorporated and limited to double the subscription. In Western Australia there is only one, the Western Australian, and in this the liability is unlimited.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. CHARLES WALTON AND SONS.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Charles Walton and Sons, engaged in business as shipbrokers, who failed on the 19th January, was held on the 15th March, Mr. Johnson presiding, when the following statement was presented by Mr. J. E. Coleman :—

Dr.

To creditors on open accounts		£9,259	15	7			
Ditto underwriting ditto		19,458	8	11			
					£28,718	4	6
To creditors on bills payable		19,689	13	5			
Less amount expected to be provided for by parties for whose account the bills were accepted		11,221	4	3			
Leaving to rank on the estate					8,468	9	2
To creditors fully secured :—							
Securities held	£23,600	0	0				
Claims	18,938	6	11				
Surplus to contra	5,201	13	4				
To creditors partially secured :—							
Claims	£14,634	3	5				
Securities held	11,300	0	0				
					3,334	3	5
To liabilities on bills receivable discounted	£29,012	18	2				
Of which it is expected there will be duly met at maturity	28,685	17	9				
Leaving to rank on the estate					327	0	5
					£40,847	17	6

Cr.

By assets, consisting of cash in hand, office furniture, &c....	£186	8	10
Debtors, good	3,139	10	4
Surplus securities with creditors per contra	5,201	13	1
	£8,527	12	3
Less creditors under £10, and salaries, &c., to be paid in full	628	19	7
	£7,898	12	8
By amount due from the executors of C. Walton, deceased	8,420	19	4
	£16,319	12	0

Dr. General Balance-sheet from April 15, 1856, *to January* 18, 1858.

To liabilities as above					£40,847	17	6
Profits					10,932	17	1
Amount due to the separate estate of C. Walton	£3,866	6	8				
Less amount standing to his debit ...	3,243	14	8				
	£622	12	0				
To amount due to the separate estate of W. Walton	1,451	0	6				
					2,073	12	6
					£53,854	7	1

Cr.

By amount as above...	£16,319	12	0
Suspense account (amount paid into Court on account of ship Hope)	311	9	9
Partners' drawings	3,907	2	5
Amount paid for furniture, &c....	669	7	0
Charges and expenses	5,881	4	3
Estimated loss on bad debts (new accounts)	4,063	4	9
Two-thirds estimated loss on bad debts (old accounts) ...	4,794	17	4
Losses on shipping, &c.	17,580	9	2
Liabilities on bills receivable discounted	327	0	5
	£53,854	7	1

The accounts, it will be noticed, showed debts and liabilities to the amount of £40,847, while the assets were not placed at a greater sum than £7,898. It was explained that the present was the residue of an old estate, for notwithstanding the sons have been identified with the firm, the chief of the indebtedness arose through the transactions of the father. At his death it was supposed he was a person of considerable wealth, and probate was taken out for £50,000, but it ultimately appeared that his affairs were in an embarrassed condition, large losses having been incurred through a Mr. Cochrane, in addition to the depreciation in the value of vessels. The dividend, according to the statement, was about 3*s.* 10*d.* in the pound, but it was believed 3*s.* 6*d.* might be realised if a liquidation under inspection be resorted to. Both Charles and William Walton carried on business on separate account as underwriters, and these estates would have to be wound up. No difficulty was likely to be experienced in the case of Charles Walton, a committee of creditors at Lloyd's having arranged to adopt the liabilities in consideration of being allowed to deal with the assets, and a negotiation was pending for a similar settlement, if possible, with regard to the affairs of William Walton. The deficiency presented was thoroughly entered into, and it was shown to arise from bad debts, losses on vessels, and shipments to Australia. Mr. Ellis, the legal representative of the firm, intimated that Messrs. Walton were quite prepared to abide by any decision arrived at, and would, if necessary to facilitate proceedings in bankruptcy, sign a declaration of insolvency. At the same time, if it were wished, a liquidation by inspectorship could be pursued, and they would endeavour to realise at least to the extent of 3*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, procuring security for the last payment. Several creditors and their representatives, while concurring in the proposal for a winding-up in the manner described, objected to a release on the distribution of a fixed amount, and a variety of questions were put with the view of eliciting information respecting matters of account, &c. A long conversation eventually took place in relation to the sale of the Sarah Sands, a vessel in which the debtors possessed an interest. Although the explanations appeared to be complete, an investigation was desired previously to adopting resolutions in favour of a liquidation, and an adjournment was consequently agreed to. The feeling of the meeting evidently tended towards a winding-up, as proposed, it being considered advisable to avoid the expense of an appeal to bankruptcy.

The separate estate of Charles Walton showed debts and liabilities, principally on underwriting account, of £11,074, and assets £8,656. The separate estate of William Walton includes debts and liabilities, £4,776, and assets, £2,993. In this latter case the risks, it was understood, were not of so favourable a character.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. BISCHOFF, BEER AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Bischoff, Beer and Co., engaged as merchants in London, Switzerland, and Calcutta, who failed in November, was held on the 27th January, when the following statement was presented by Mr. Weise, of the firm of Messrs. J. E. Coleman and Co., the accountants :—

Dr.

To creditors on open accounts			£7,358 9 3
Creditors on bills payable	£15,038 2 1		
Amount expected to be taken up by other parties	1,030 2 7		
Amount expected to rank on this estate			14,007 19 0
Creditors holding security :—			
Securities held	2,951 8 11		
Amount of claim	2,574 1 5		
Surplus to contra	£377 7 6		
			£21,366 8 9
Liabilities on bills :—			
Receivable discounted	£29,042 8 1		
Of which it is expected there will be paid at maturity	15 694 0 2		
Leaving to rank on this estate... ...			13,348 7 11
Liabilities			£34,714 16 8

Cr.

By assets, consisting of goods in London office, furniture, &c.			£87 0 0
Debtors, good			2,291 10 5
Ditto, doubtful, estimated to produce			146 12 9
Surplus securities with creditors, per contra			377 7 6
Consignments, &c.			1,928 18 9
Amount due from Bischoff and Co., of Calcutta	£11,658 9 11		
Less amount due to Bischoff and Co., of Teufen, Switzerland	1,953 9 11		
			9,705 0 0
			£14,536 9 5
Less amounts under £10 and to be paid in full ...			127 12 11
Assets			£14,408 16 6

General Balance Statement from January 1855 *to November* 26, 1857.

Dr.

To liabilities as above	£34,714	16	8
Amount standing to the credit of F. Beer	229	7	0
	£34,944	3	8

Cr.

By assets, as above	£14,408	16	6
Losses by doubtful and bad debts	1,480	10	2
Profit and loss balance	5,706	9	1
Liabilities on bills receivable discounted	13,348	7	11
	£34,944	3	8

It was stated that although a longer time had elapsed than usual in convening a meeting, it had not arisen from any irregularity in the accounts, but solely from a desire to ascertain the position of the houses at Calcutta and Tuefen, in order that the creditors of the London establishment might have the benefit of any assets to be received thence. It appeared that Mr. Bischoff had since arrived from Tuefen, and had explained that if time was allowed the Calcutta house, there was every prospect of realising nearly the entire amount which that firm was indebted to the London partners. Mr. Weise having entered into the full details of the statement, intimated that Messrs. Bischoff, Beer and Co., of course placed themselves unreservedly in the hands of their creditors, either to liquidate under inspection, or through any other medium which might be thought advantageous. Looking, however, to the nature of the assets, the greater part depending on the Calcutta house, which, if at all pressed or interfered with, would probably not show favourable results, it was considered advisable to request Messrs. Bischoff, Beer and Co. to be prepared with an offer to pay a composition, and to retain the management of the estate themselves. The proposal was a payment of 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, by instalments of 2*s.* at two months, 2*s.* at five months, 2*s.* at eight months, and 1*s.* 6*d.* at ten months, the last to be secured, which was ultimately accepted. In answer to questions it was stated by Mr. Nicholson, the legal representative of the firm, that the establishments in Calcutta and Switzerland had suspended, and that the security for the last instalment would be approved to the satisfaction of the creditors. The house in London commenced without any capital, and it stood in the relation of an agency between the firm in Tuefen (who were manufacturers of Swiss goods, and who exported at the rate of from £30,000 to £40,000 a year) and the firm in India. At the conclusion of the proceedings two inspectors were appointed until the payment of the first instalment, and the approval of the security for the last.

THE ESTATE OF MR. PETER BROWN.

At a meeting on the 2nd February, of the creditors of Mr. Peter Brown, engaged in business as a carpet warehouseman, who failed on the 21st January, the following satisfactory statement, showing 20*s.* in the pound, with a surplus, was presented by Mr. Turquand, of the firm of Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, and Co., the accountants :—

Dr.					
To creditors unsecured				£29,630	5 5
Creditors holding security : see contra ...	£1,151	4	4		
Liabilities on bills payable over and above amounts included in creditors				445	15 8
Liabilities on bills receivable	16,145	10	0		
Considered good	15,691	16	4		
Expected to be claimed against the estate ...				456	13 8
				30,532	14 9
Surplus carried down				7,719	0 5
				38,251	15 2
Cr.					
By debtors :—					
Good				£7,966	15 10
Doubtful	£638	0	11		
Estimated to produce				159	10 0
Bad	1,091	18	10		
By cash in hand				25	0 0
Bills receivable in hand				157	12 10
Bills deposited with the bankers :—					
Considered good	5,037	18	1		
Less, amount advanced thereon	2,690	8	4		
				2,347	9 9
By stock and fixtures				23,010	1 10
Property				1,330	0 0
Ditto, in the hands of creditors	3,825	9	11		
Less, amount of their claims	1,181	4	4		
				2,644	5 0
By bills taken as liabilities per contra ...	445	15	8		
	456	13	8		
	£902	9	4		
Amount likely to be recovered				580	19 4
				£38,251	15 2
By surplus				£7,719	0 5

It was explained that the position of the debtor had been principally produced by the pressure of one creditor, and that, although the estate exhibited such a favourable prospect, there was no other resource than to adopt the present proceedings. Mr. Brown, it appeared, commenced business in 1851 with £300, and had since gradually extended his connection until the present period, when his accounts showed 20*s.* in the pound, with a surplus of £7,700. Universal testimony was offered to his straightforward conduct and economical expenditure, his drawings having only been £250 per annum. Mr. J. Linklater, as his legal representative, stated that it was at first thought that a proposal for the payment of 20*s.* in the pound, by instalments of 5*s.* in three, six, nine, and twelve months, with interest at the rate of 5 per cent., should be made, but that Mr. Brown considered payments at four, eight, twelve, and sixteen months would better meet his convenience, if the creditors had no objection. A liquidation under this arrangement was then unanimously agreed to, and full confidence being reposed in Mr. Brown, it was considered unnecessary to appoint inspectors.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. HENRY HOFFMANN AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Henry Hoffmann and Co., engaged in business as general merchants, who failed on the 30th of November, was held on the 3rd of February, when the following statement was presented by Mr. J. E. Coleman, of the firm of Messrs. Coleman and Co., the accountants:—

Dr.

To creditors on open accounts		£12,155	0 8
Ditto on bills payable	£108,639 13 9		
Of which it is expected there will be provided for by the parties for whose account the bills were accepted...	49,632 12 1		
Leaving to rank on this estate ...		59,007	1 8
Creditors fully secured—Security held	£13,436 12 1		
Claims	12,018 18 0		
Surplus, which will be retained against bills discounted... ...	£1,417 14 1		
Creditors partially secured—			
Claims	£60,916 5 2		
Securities held	44,661 16 2		
Deficiency		16,254	9 0
Liabilities on bills receivable, discounted	£221,905 6 7		
Of which it is expected there will be duly honoured at maturity, or taken up by the drawers ...	185,321 10 10		
Leaving to rank on this estate ...		36,583	15 9
Liabilities		£124,000	7 1
Liability as shareholder in the Australian Auxiliary Steam Clipper Company (Limited)			

Cr.

By cash and bills on hand	£215	5 4
Sundry assets, consisting of consignments, &c. ...	2,044	3 6
Debtors, good	19,115	11 3
Estimated amount due to H. Hoffmann, as partner in the firms of Kirchner, Sharp and Co., of Melbourne, and Kirchner and Co., of Sydney, accruing from his share of profits	30,000	0 0
Amount for which parties will be debtors after they retire the drafts accepted for their accounts ...	858	1 1
	£52,233	1 2
Less, creditors under £10 and amounts to be paid in full	243	9 6
Assets	£51,989	11 8

60 shares in the Australian Auxiliary Steam Clipper Company (Limited), £10 paid				£6,000	0	0
300 ditto, - ditto £15 paid				4,500	0	0
				£10,500	0	0

General Balance from Jan. 1, 1850, to Nov. 30, 1857.

Dr.

To liabilities as above				£124,000	7	1
Capital in the firm of H. Hoffmann and Co.	£1,152	16	0			
Ditto in the firms of Kirchner and Co., of Sydney, and Kirchner, Sharp, and Co., of Melbourne	30,000	0	0			
				31,152	16	0
To profits				68,645	13	5
				£223,798	16	6

Cr.

By assets as above				£51,989	11	8
Shares in the Australian Auxiliary Steam Clipper Company	£10,500	0	0			
Ditto Australian, London, and Emigration Company	2,500	0	0			
				13,000	0	0
Sundry bills upon failed houses				4,040	2	10
Surplus securities in the hands of creditors held against bills discounted				1,417	14	1
Personal expenses for eight years				11,910	10	3
Trade ditto for eight years				17,997	8	10
Losses				58,372	2	9
Estimated losses from bad and doubtful debts on Nov. 30, 1857				28,487	11	1
Liabilities on bills receivable discounted, contra ...				36,583	15	9
				£223,798	16	6

It was stated by Mr. Coleman that the cause of the failure in this case was the pressure of the period, and the suspension of other houses with which the firm was connected. The amount of bills payable likely to rank upon the estate was £59,000, and it principally arose from the adoption of the system which had hitherto proved so fatal—viz., that of open credits. The connection of Messrs. Hoffmann and Co. with Messrs. Rugin and Hoffmann, of Zurich, who had since failed, would still leave the latter creditors on this estate, through the account current, and bills for which they were liable, for upwards of £50,000, after deducting the total of the securities was then valued. The assets, consisting of consignments, might be realised, and it was hoped that the amount of good debts would be secured, but the greater part of these had to be collected from abroad. The principal amount of £30,000, which was exhibited on the creditor side of the account, was the estimated sum due to Mr. H. Hoffmann as partner in the firms of Messrs. Kirchner, Sharp, and Co., of Melbourne, and Messrs. Kirchner and Co., of Sidney. It was stated that there was no distinct

articles of partnership existing between these respective parties, but that the correspondence showed the actual position in which they stood in relation to each other. Although no regular accounts had been furnished, some statements were in existence which led to the presumption that Mr. Hoffmann was entitled to about £40,000, and, making allowance for bad debts, which might have since been incurred, the outstanding balance was taken at £30,000. It was alleged that the object of the debtor had for several years past been to concentrate his connections in Australia and California, believing that from those resources he would make a favourable position. He was also a shareholder to the extent of £10,500 in the Australian Auxiliary Steam Clipper Company, and, notwithstanding assurances had been given that the liquidation would be satisfactory, it had not been considered advisable to place them at any value in the usual category of assets. As four-fifths of the amount estimated to be realised depended upon the Australian partnership, it was thought that the presence of Mr. Hoffmann in Port Philip and New South Wales might expedite remittances, and since Mr. Kirchner, who was then staying in Germany, was about shortly to return to Australia, it was suggested that Mr. Hoffmann should also proceed thither. The firms in Australia were understood to be thoroughly solvent. In answer to a question, Mr. Nicholson, the legal representative of the debtor, intimated that there was no question but that the partnership was valid. After some general conversation, in which the opinion of the creditors appeared to be in favour of Mr. Hoffmann proceeding abroad to arrange with the Sydney and Port Philip firms, for the transmission of his share of profits, resolutions were passed agreeing to a liquidation under inspection, and Mr. Cahlmann and Mr. Dreutler were appointed to act on behalf of the general body.

THE ESTATE OF MR. CHARLES FAUNTLEROY.

A MEETING of the creditors of Mr. Charles Fauntleroy, engaged in the wool trade, who failed on the 31st of December, was held on the 5th February, Mr. Barber in the chair, when the following statement was presented by Mr. Quilter, of the firm of Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Co., the accountants:—

Dr.

To creditors unsecured		£19,242	18 10
To creditors partially secured:—			
Amount of claims	£95,408 0 2		
Less estimated value of securities ...	44,611 3 8		
		50,796	16 6
To creditors fully secured:—			
Estimated value of securities	14,371 17 7		
Less amount of claims	12,972 12 8		
Surplus	£1,399 4 11		
To liabilities on acceptances, as per list ...	£5,409 14 5		
Estimated claims in respect thereof		2,693	10 4
To liabilities on bills receivable, as per list	£13,635 15 2		
Estimated claims in respect thereof		3,609	14 0
		£76,342	19 8

Cr.					
By cash in hand				£41	19 1
By bills receivable on hand, considered good				484	0 8
Ditto, bad	£430	1	1		
By sundry debtors, considered good				2,464	6 7
Ditto, doubtful	£1,136	19	5		
Estimated to produce				284	4 10
Ditto, bad	£404	10	2		
By stock of wool in hand				6,646	13 4
Mining shares, estimated value				1,429	3 9
House and office furniture, estimated value				900	0 0
Surplus securities in hands of creditors, per contra ...				1,399	4 11
Plant and utensils at Market Harborough, Coleman-street, and Bermondsey				2,000	0 0
				£15,649	13 2
Less creditors to be paid in full				157	16 9
				£15,491	16 5

The debts and liabilities being £76,342, and the assets £15,491, a dividend of about 4*s.* in the pound was exhibited, which, it was thought, with careful management, might be realised. The connection of the insolvent with Messrs. Haigh and Messrs. W. Cheesbrough and Son of course raised suspicions with respect to his trading; but although the debt due by him in the one case is £20,000, and in the other £28,000, the amount of accommodation paper, properly so called, has been limited. About eighteen months since, the insolvent possessed a capital of £35,000; but the depreciation in wool, and extensive operations in English mining shares, have absorbed the whole, leaving, in addition, a serious deficiency. The books throughout have been very badly kept; and notwithstanding several of the creditors appear to consider that the insolvent has not been actuated by improper motives, his conduct in this respect was severely censured. The question of an administration under bankruptcy was raised, but it was stated that the present system would involve too great an outlay. A suggestion was offered with a view of promoting reform in this direction; but, after some discussion, it was agreed to effect a liquidation under inspection.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. B. C. T. GRAY AND SONS.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. B. C. T. Gray and Sons, Canadian merchants, who failed on the 13th January, was held on the 10th February —Mr. H. Lancaster in the chair—when the following statement was presented by Mr. Quilter, of the firm of Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Co., the accountants:—

Dr.					
To creditors unsecured	£27,773	19	3		
Deduct estimated amount of interest, commissions, and charges to be placed to sundry accounts	800	0	0		
Carried forward				£26,973	19 3

	Brought forward ...	£26,973	19 3
To creditors partially secured—			
Amount of claims	£5,929 6 4		
Estimated value of security	4,750 0 0		
Deficiency		1,179	6 4
To creditors fully secured—			
Estimated value of security	£8,660 4 1		
Amount of claims	7,965 9 11		
Surplus per contra...	694 14 2		
To liabilities on acceptances running ...	£72,722 19 4		
Of which it is estimated will prove claims on this estate		9,215	0 0
Liabilities on bills receivable, considered good	48,056 7 8		
		£37,368	5 7
Cr.			
By cash in hand	£282 8 5		
Cash at banker's	329 13 7	£612	2 0
By bills receivable—			
Considered good	£1,023 3 0		
Ditto, doubtful £412 10 0			
Estimated produce	60 0 0	1,083	3 0
By debtors—			
Considered good	£16,221 8 5		
Ditto, doubtful and bad £17,246 13 3			
Estimated to produce	1,263 0 8	17,484	9 1
By merchandise on hand, estimated value		1,204	15 6
Surplus securities in hands of creditors per contra ...		694	14 2
4-64ths of ship Queen of the Lakes, estimated value ...		320	0 0
Life policies, estimated value		400	0 0
Sea insurance policies		120	16 7
Land in Australia and New Zealand, value cannot be estimated		0	0 0
		£21,920	0 4
By deficiency		15,448	5 3
		£37,368	5 7

The debts and liabilities, according to this account, stood at £37,368, and the assets at £21,920, showing a dividend of about 12*s.* in the pound. It was, however, not expected that this amount would be fully realised, a considerable portion of the assets being due from mercantile houses in St. Vincent's and Bermuda. The cause of suspension was alleged to have been the absence of remittances from Halifax. The capital on the 1st of January, 1857, was £14,434, and the transactions of the firm had on the whole, been regular. Some open credits had existed in favour of

establishments abroad, but produce had generally been forwarded to meet the drafts. Among the secured creditors were personal friends, who advanced £6,000 shortly before the pressure of the period compelled the firm to suspend. The debtors not being in a position to make an offer, left themselves entirely in the hands of the creditors, and, through Mr. Ellis, their solicitor, expressed their readiness either to submit to bankruptcy or to agree to a liquidation by the process of inspection. The majority of the creditors intimated that the latter would be the proper course to pursue, and, in accordance with this opinion, resolutions were passed authorising the arrangement, and appointing two creditors to represent the general body.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. COTTON AND TRUEMAN.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Cotton and Trueman, metal brokers, who failed on the 20th of November, was held on the 15th February, when the following statement was presented by Mr. G. H. Jay, the accountant:—

Dr.						
To sundry creditors—						
Unsecured, per list	£1,000	12	5			
Underwriting accounts...	£903	9	5			
				£1,904	1	10
To creditors holding securities, as per statement, claims	37,949	8	2			
Deduct—						
Estimated value of metals and shares held as security	35,470	11	8			
				£2,478	16	6
To liabilities on bills payable, per list, amounting to	71,290	8	8			
To be met by the drawers, who will then have claims, amounting to				9,219	6	8
Liability on bills payable, accepted for the Mexican and South American Company, per statement ...	16,000	0	0			
Which it is expected this estate will be relieved from by the company liquidating in full.						
Liabilities on bills receivable, per list	41,080	17	9			
Of which will be proved				2,954	0	0
Liability on underwriting:						
Estimated risks	300,000	0	0			
Liability on joint and several promissory note for 3,000*l.*— estimated share of liability in respect thereof				500	0	0
				£17,056	5	0
Less creditors to be paid in full				596	7	6
				£16,459	17	6

Cr.					
By cash at bankers				£196	18 0
Bills receivable:					
In hand, considered good				459	2 11
Promissory notes of the Mexican and South American Company ...	£13,932	14	6		
To be given up on payment of bills accepted for £16,000 and balance of account current for £4,041 2*s.* 7*d.*					
Sundry debtors, per list:—					
Considered good ... £3,753 15 6					
Allowed 10 per cent 375 3 6					
	3,378	13	0		
Mexican and South American Company, balance due	4,041	2	7		
				£7,419	15 7
By stock of copper in hand, estimated at				5,300	0 0
Counting-house furniture, estimated at				100	0 0
Private property, considered worth				1,680	0 0
4,800 Wheal Vor shares, cost 7*l.* per share	33,600	0	0		
Premiums due on underwriting account	4,363	12	5		
				£15,155	16 6
Less creditors and expenses to be paid in full				1,096	7 6
				£14,059	9 0

It was explained that the accounts showed about 17*s.* in the pound, but that there was the expectation of 20*s.* being obtained. The failure was caused by the breaking up of the Mexican and South American Association, to whom the debtors were brokers, and for whom they had come under engagements to the extent of £16,000. The firm originally possessed a capital of £33,600, which was invested in the Wheal Vor Mines. The assets would be increased by any rise which might take place in the price in the price of metals, and the balance due from the Mexican and South American Company would be recovered, as, under the operation of the Winding-up Act, the contributors must provide for the outstanding-claims. After some discussion it was agreed to place the estate under the process of inspection, and sympathy was expressed for the position in which the firm was placed.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. HEINE, SEMON AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Heine, Semon and Co., bankers and exchange brokers, who suspended on the 10th of December, was held on the 17th February, Mr. J. H. W. Schroder in the chair; when the following satisfactory statement, exhibiting a surplus of £52,832 was presented by Mr. Turquand, of the firm Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co.:—

Dr.

To creditors unsecured—			
Open accounts	£15,115 3 9		
Bills payable	42,353 14 6		
		£57,468	18 3
Creditors partially secured—			
Amount of claims	9,316 0 6		
Value of securities	3,913 10 0		
		5,402	10 6
Creditors fully secured—			
Value of securities	33,263 2 4		
Amount of claims	28,734 15 1		
Surplus taken as an asset, per contra	£4,528 7 3		
		£62,817	8 9
Liabilities on bills payable	£517,709 19 10		
Accepted for account of parties who are creditors, subject to their retiring such acceptances	290,157 6 8		
Returned and Cancelled	£198,301 11 11		
Guaranteed ...	10,401 4 2		
	208,702 16 1		
Leaving outstanding	£81,454 10 7		
Which will all be retired by the drawers.			
Accepted on account of parties who are debtors, after retiring such acceptances	£227,552 13 2		
Returned and Cancelled	£187,845 16 9		
Guaranteed ...	300 14 6		
	188,146 11 3		
Leaving outstanding	£39,406 1 11		
Of which it is expected there will be claimed against the estate		8,780	0 0
Liabilities on bills receivable, discounted	£508,514 15 9		
Ditto on foreign bills negotiated ...	371,104 11 8		
	£879,619 7 5		
Run off, viz.—			
Bills receivable	£486,421 13 8		
Foreign bills	352,077 19 0		
Carried forward ...	£839,299 12 8	£71,597	8 9

Brought forward ...	£839,299 12 8	£71,597 8 9
Of which there have been returned unpaid and will be claimed against the estate, viz.—		
Bills receivable £132 17 0		
Foreign bills ... 21,300 0 0		
		21,432 17 0
Amount still running, viz.—		
Bills receivable ... £22,093 2 1		
Foreign bills ... 18,226 12 8		
	40,319 14 9	
	£879,619 7 5	
		£93,084 5 9
In respect of which it is anticipated there will not be any claim against the estate.		
To balance, being surplus of joint estate, carried down ...		37,832 11 4
		£130,916 17 1

Cr.

By cash at bankers' and in hand			£4,043 7 1
Bills receivable in hand	£49,382 19 10		
By sundry foreign bills receivable £14,571 1 11			
Estimated to realise 12,000 0 0			
	12,000 0 0		
			61,382 19 10
Carried to losses	£2,571 1 11		
By sundry debtors—			
Considered good			36,000 0 0
Doubtful £1,582 11 6			
Bad 971 10 7			
Carried to losses £1,554 2 1			
By property £8,685 8 8			
Estimated to realise 4,932 2 11			
			4,932 2 11
Carried to losses £3,753 5 9			
By property held by creditors fully covered, surplus as per contra			4,528 7 3
By amount estimated to be recovered upon bills treated as liabilities, viz.:—			20,030 0 0
Bills payable ... £8,780 0 0			
Bills receivable ... 21,432 17 0			
£30,212 17 0 (As per contra)			
			£130,916 17 7

By balance being surplus of joint estate brought down	£37,832 11 4		
By partners' private estates estimated to realise—			
Mr. R. Heine's	1,500 0 0		
Mr. C. Semon's	13,500 0 0		
		£52,832 11 4	

STATEMENT SHOWING THE POSITION OF THE FIRM ON THE 31ST OF DECEMBER, 1856, AND ACCOUNTING FOR PRESENT SURPLUS.

Dr.

To capital at credit of partners, Dec. 31, 1856		£48,293 10 10	
Profit from Dec. 31, 1856, to Dec. 10, 1857, viz. :—			
Profit and loss account, balance, sundries	£1,332 12 6		
Interest, commission, &c.	12,472 8 6		
	£13,805 1 0		
Less expenses...	1,554 13 8		
		12,250 7 4	
To partners' private estates, as per statement of affairs, viz. :—			
Mr. R. Heine	£1,500 0 0		
Mr. C. Semon	13,500 0 0		
		15,000 0 0	
		£75,543 18 2	

Cr.

By partners' drawings—			
R. Heine		£1,034 9 4	
C. Semon	1,372 10 9		
Ditto, furniture	2,243 0 0		
		3,615 10 9	
		£4,650 0 1	
By losses on estimated realisation of assets, as per statement of affairs, viz. :—			
On foreign bills on hand	£2,571 1 11		
On debtors	1,554 2 1		
On property	3,753 5 9		
		7,878 9 9	
By liabilities, viz. :—			
On bills payable	£8,780 0 0		
On bills receivable	21,432 17 0		
	£30,212 17 0		
Deduct—Amount estimated to be recovered	20,030 0 0		
		10,182 17 0	
By surplus, as per statement of affairs		52,833 1 4	
		£75,543 18 2	

It was explained by Mr. Turquand that the reason of the meeting having been so long deferred had arisen from the desire of Messrs. Heine, Semon, and Co., to ascertain the result of the bills running, before presenting a proposal for the arrangement of their estate. Being now in a condition to do so, they were able to exhibit very favourable accounts. As proving not only the care with which operations have been conducted, but as also showing the sound and satisfactory position of the business relations of the house, attention was directed to the debtor side of the statement. The total liabilities which were running at the date of the suspension were, on bills payable, upwards of £517,000, and on bills receivable £508,000, in addition to foreign bills negotiated, £371,000. The total amount of bills not met, or which it was anticipated might not be met at maturity, in respect of these three items, was £30,312, of which, out of the bills receivable, amounting to no less a sum than £371,000, the loss figures only for the very small amount of £132; so that of liabilities amounting to nearly £1,500,000, the comparatively limited amount of £30,312 alone would rank against the estate, of which it was anticipated £20,000 would be recovered. Besides this amount of £30,312, Messrs. Heine and Semon had had returned to them prior to their suspension foreign bills receivable, included among the assets, to the amount of £14,571. With respect to this total a recovery of £12,000 was also anticipated, which would leave the entire loss on liabilities at only about £12,571. There was also another fact which it was thought right should be mentioned, viz., that the great bulk of the bills which had not been met, or were known to Messrs. Heine and Semon, would not be met, at maturity, at or before the date of their suspension. Since their stoppage on the 10th December, bills bearing the endorsement of Messrs. Heine and Semon had only been returned to the amount of £8,000, and bills receivable only to the amount of £2,900, for which ample security was held to cover them. Mr. Nicholson, the legal representative of the firm, in alluding to the causes which led to their suspension, stated that the decision had not been come to without mature reflection, although the partners had received offers of assistance both from personal friends and the Bank of England. Painful as the alternative was, the house, having incurred large liabilities on bills and possessing extensive business relations with banks in Germany, considered that it would not be prudent to accept loans from friends, which might be jeopardised by the current of events abroad. Although at that date they had every expectation of being enabled to exhibit as favourable a balance-sheet as now presented, still they could not but regard some circumstances with suspicion, especially when large special remittances were intercepted, and funds which they had a right to rely on failed to arrive in due course. Notwithstanding the partners had refrained from availing themselves of the assistance offered, they nevertheless now desired to return their best thanks to those friends and to the Directors of the Bank of England for the overtures made at the time they found it necessary to cease payments. The proposal made by Messrs. Heine, Semon and Co., was to pay 20*s.* in the pound, with interest at the rate of 5 per cent., on the 25th March; but if certain arrangements then in progress could not be carried out, then the firm would on that date pay 10*s.* in the pound in cash, and give their acceptances or promissory notes, payable at three months' date from the 25th March next, for the balance, with interest It was, however, considered that the full payment would be made in the manner and at the period described. Mr. Melville moved, and Mr. Abegg seconded, the annexed resolution, which was unanimously passed, great sympathy being expressed at the unfortunate situation in which the firm has been temporarily placed:—

"Resolved unanimously,—'That the proposal now made by Messrs. R. Heine, Semon and Co., be accepted, and that the time necessary to carry the same into effect be granted. And the creditors now present do for themselves give, and recommend to absent creditors to give, to Messrs. R. Heine, Semon and Co., free leave and license in as full and ample a manner as if a formal deed had been executed."

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. ROCHUSSEN & Co.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Rochussen and Co., who failed in the Mogadore trade, was held on the 26th February, Mr. F. J. Price presiding, when the following statement was presented by Mr. A. Young, of the firm of Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, and Co., the accountants:—

Dr.								
To creditors on open accounts				£4,661	16	4		
„ on bills payable				11,465	5	4		
				£16,127	1	8		
To creditors secured—								
Value of security... ...	£800	0	0					
Claims thereon	750	0	0					
Surplus per contra ...	£50	0	0					
Liabilities on bills receivable	£2,623	7	7					
Of which considered bad				482	8	2		
							16,609	9 10
Liabilities in respect of our acceptance for balance of purchase money of Paulina steamer	£7,575	0	0					
Secured by mortgage of the steamer, which cost £9,150, but, if realised by bill-holders, may not produce	5,000	0	0					
	£2,575	0	0				£16,609	9 10
Cr.								
By cash in hand	£30	0	0					
Bills receivable on hand, good	191	9	10					
				£221	9	10		
Doubtful	£1,583	11	0					
Estimated to realise				227	17	0		
Bad	222	18	4					
Carried forward				£449	6	10		

	Brought forward	£449	6	10
By sundry debtors—				
Considered good		542	19	11
Doubtful 1,832 10 5				
Estimated to realise		508	0	3
Bad 37 3 4				
By sundry debtors on current accounts ...		3,745	2	10
Holding goods on consignment, their accounts being debited with the prime cost of such goods.				
By consignments not yet realised, at cost price		1,590	0	0
Stock at wharves, &c.		349	0	0
Office furniture		50	0	0
Surplus per contra		50	0	0
Amounts in hands of creditors in anticipation of dividend		1,159	10	0
		£8,443	19	10
Deduct creditors to be paid in full		184	0	7
			8,259	19 3
By vendors of the Paulina 4,056 4 0				
Amount of our claim for breach of contract.				
			£8,259	19 3

The debts and liabilities being £16,609, and the assets £8,259, a dividend of about 10*s*. was presented, but as an individual creditor had commenced proceedings against the insolvent, it was agreed that he should make an assignment to trustees, and that the estate should be wound up in bankruptcy under the Private Arrangement Act. The causes of his suspension were stated to be the absence of remittances from Mogadore, and his connection with the houses of Messrs. Leopold Sampson and Messrs. Ward, of Liverpool, both of which have failed. A claim exists against the vendors of the Paulina steamer of £4,056 for a breach of contract. The estates of the Liverpool firm would, it was believed, pay satisfactory dividends, and in this case the creditors of Messrs. Rochussen and Co. were likely to obtain some benefit. Through an attempted arrangement, before the notice in bankruptcy was served upon the insolvent, he had endeavoured to effect a composition, and some parties therefore received small sums in anticipation of dividend. The feeling of the creditors present was favourable to the proposed proceeding, and it was agreed that Mr. Price should act as trustee, in conjunction with Mr. Graham, the official assignee.

THE ESTATE OF MR. H. P. MAPLES.

A MEETING of the creditors of Mr. H. P. Maples, insurance broker and Custom-house agent, who suspended on the 24th of March, was held on the 31st March, Mr. Gore presiding, when the following statement of affairs was submitted by Mr. J. E. Coleman, the accountant:—

Dr.

To amount of general creditors, above £10			£8,230
Amount of creditors on insurance accounts above £10. ...			5,695
			£13,925
Amount due to the London and Brighton and the French railways for advances on five steam boats ...		£38,100	
Cost of these five boats		60,000	
Estimated value of the five steam boats, as ships at work		54,300	
Amount due to other creditors, for advances on steam boat Brighton		5,600	
Estimated value of steam boat		5,600	13,925
To underwriting liabilities.			

Cr.

By amount of debtors			£3,050
Sundry assets			520
Shipping cost		£6,102	
Estimated value			3,000
			£6,570
Difference between estimated value of steam boats as working vessels	£54,300		
Charges on same	38,100		
			16,200
			£22,770
Premiums due on underwriting account.			

It was explained that the difficulties of the debtor have arisen from his having entered into an arrangement with the Brighton and Western of France Railway Companies to develop the traffic by steam boats between Shoreham and Jersey, and Newhaven and Dieppe. The trade is a lucrative one, but its enlargement has been too rapid for the means of Mr. Maples, and he has been brought to a stand, not being fully able to carry out the arrangements with those companies. The accounts, although the books are not yet balanced, present nearly an accurate statement, or at least sufficient to show what is the condition of his affairs. In his character as insurance broker, &c., his liabilities are about £13,925, and the assets to meet them £6,570. With respect to the agreement with the London and Brighton and the Western of France Railways, the value of the fleet, as working vessels, is placed at £54,300; while the advances made have been £38,100, leaving a surplus of £16,200. This, added to the assets, constitute a total of £22,770 to meet £13,925. Without relying on such a favourable issue, it is hoped that the creditors may receive 20*s.* in the pound, but it is considered that the first step to be adopted, is the appointment of a committee, who can assist the debtor and his legal adviser, Mr. Pearce, in opening a communication with the companies, in order to arrive at a settlement. In the course of a month the committee will be able to report to a future meeting, and as the pressure of the unfavourable season has passed, and the traffic is becoming remunerative, a satisfactory arrangement is deemed probable. So late as January last the estimate of the value of the boats was formed, and hence it is presumed that the companies will not object to come to terms on a fair and honourable basis. Preparations for the adjustment of the underwriting account are in progress, similar to those

effected in the case of Mr. C. Walton. At the conclusion of the meeting the committee appointed to act were Mr. Wheeler, Mr. F. Morris, and Mr. Brett, who were likewise empowered to effect arrangements for the sale of the steam boat Brighton, which is mortgaged for £5,600, with the view of satisfying the claim upon the vessel. An adjournment then took place, as recommended, for one month.

Legal Miscellany.

THE FAILURE OF THE HASTINGS OLD BANK.—IN RE SMITH, HILDER AND COMPANY.

At the Court of Bankruptcy on the 13th April, before Mr. Commissioner Fane, a certificate meeting was held in the case of T. Smith, and an adjourned examination meeting in the case of James Hilder.

It appeared from the examination of Mr. T. Smith, that he had borrowed a sum of £3,000 from Mr. Yates, on the joint note of himself, Henry Smith and Richard Smith. In 1856 there was some negotiation between himself and the present Mr. Yates in respect to the £3,000, when he told Mr. Yates that he was prepared to pay the amount, but that the other parties liable were not so prepared. He had no authority to make that representation. It was urged that this case was a misrepresentation, and that the certificate of the bankrupt ought to be suspended accordingly.

The Commissioner quoted the remark of an ancient philosopher in respect to the difficulty of "empty bags standing upright," and doubted whether he could take judicial cognizance of such an excuse or misrepresentation.

On further examination, the bankrupt admitted that he had by letter stated that the parties would be obliged by further time for payment of the note in order that they might get their hops into the market. A promissory note for £500, dated the 25th of June, 1857, had been given to Mr. Verrall, who married his daughter. His daughter was married the day before the stoppage of the bank. He had given the same sum to Mrs. Underwood in 1850. He had promised the afore-mentioned £500 eighteen months before, when the parties were engaged.

The Commissioner said marriage was a good consideration, but a trader had no right to give away the money of other persons. The bankrupt had acted with impropriety, to say the least.

The bankrupt, on further examination, said, Mr. Verrall had stated that he would have £500 before the marriage. The Commissioner—When was the wedding day fixed? The bankrupt—Six weeks before the stoppage. On the 7th of June, 1850, he mortgaged his property to the bank for £10,000. In 1847 the property was valued at £20,700; now it was valued at £23,807. The consideration for the mortgage was an overdrawn account to the amount of £10,000. He executed a settlement upon his wife in 1847, being two years after his marriage. His wife's property was all that was included in that settlement.

The Commissioner—I do not see how the creditors can complain of such a settlement. His Honour said he would defer his judgment. The only question for him to consider was whether the bankrupt would receive a first or a second class certificate.

Judgment deferred accordingly.

The further examination of James Hilder was then adjourned for six weeks, upon the understanding that certain questions would be answered in the mean time.

THE DARTFORD AND GRAVESEND BANK.—IN RE JONATHAN AND ROBERT HILLS.

An adjourned examination meeting of Jonathan and Robert Hills, bankers, of Gravesend and Dartford, was held by Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque at the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 13th April, when the following balance-sheet, commencing on the 14th June, 1851, and ending 19th December, 1857, was presented:—

Creditors unsecured, £36,961 14*s.* 10*d.*; creditors holding security, £14,166 14*s.* 10*d.*; from which must be deducted the securities of Messrs. Hills, of the value of £10,163 4*s.* 9*d.*; securities of other parties who have right of proof, £2,315; leaving only £1,688 10*s.* 1*d.* to rank against the estate, in addition to which £2,315 will be proved by the creditors in respect of their securities. Liabilities on bills receivable £13,782 12*s.* 2*d.*, of which it is expected £2,000 will not be met, and therefore be provable. On the 14th of June, 1851, J. Hills had capital standing in his name £2,970 4*s.* 4*d.*, and had since introduced £10,520 10*s.* 11*d.* into the concern; R. Hills at the same date possessed £1,191 5*s.* 9*d.*, and had subsequently brought in £2,420; making a total of £16,402 1*s.*; profits £11,142 1*s.* 7*d.* On the creditor side, the property is stated at £621 17*s.* 10*d.*; debtors considered good, £2,507 1*s.* 11*d.*; doubtful, £11,691 13*s.* 9*d.*, estimated to realise £1,700; and bad, £23,105 16*s.*, carried to losses. The trade expenses of the two banks were £8,990 9*s.* 4*d.*, and drawings of Robert Hills, £16,229 5*s.* The losses are thus analysed:—By D. M'Rae, late partner, £5,154 7*s.* 2*d.*; on property, £208 19*s.* 6*d.*; bad and doubtful debts, £33,097 9*s.* 9*d.*; bad liabilities, £2,000; making an aggregate loss of £40,460 16*s.* 5*d.*

It appearing the accounts had not been filed, an adjournment was taken by consent until the 11th of May with enlarged protection to the bankrupts. Debts to the amount of £2,000 were admitted against the joint estate.

The separate balance-sheets do not contain anything worthy of notice.

THE KETTERING BANK.—IN RE GOTCH AND THOMAS GOTCH.

A MEETING for passing the last examination of Messrs. John Davis Gotch and Thomas Henry Gotch, bankers of Kettering, took place at the Court of Bankruptcy, before Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque, on the 16th of April.

Their accounts extend from May 23, 1852, to August 26, 1857, and contain the following items:—Dr.—Unsecured creditors, £128,068; creditors holding security, £4,000; profits as bankers, £7,246; as manufacturers, £26,731; capital introduced since the 23rd of May, 1852, by T. H. Gotch, £2,352; liabilities on bonds, £3,237. Cr.—Good debtors, £14,885; doubtful, £49,437, as estimated to produce £9,320; other doubtful and bad debts as estimated to produce £4,165; cash given up, £2,591; property, £20,574; property in hands of creditor (the Rev. F. W. Gotch), £2,000; cash distributed among creditors as a dividend of 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, £13,366; excess of payments over receipts as the acting executors of the

late J. C. Gotch, £2,747; trade expenses, £19,399; losses, £57,255; outlay on the estate of the late J. C. Gotch, £811; drawings by J. D. Gotch, £4,045; by T. H. Gotch, £4,569; deficiency on the 23rd of May, 1852, £12,551.

The unsecured creditors include:—Kettering Foresters' Club, £91; Kettering Angel Club, £145; Kettering Baptist Meeting Club, £104; Baptist Provident Society, £79; Baptist Chapel Fund, £739; Kettering Bible Society, £4; Broughton Old Club, £17; Broughton Club, £106; Burton Amicable Provident Society, £334; Burton Clothing Club, £21; Burton Foresters' Club, £108; Burton Odd Fellows' Club, £139; Kettering Clergy Charity, £219; Corby Black Horse Club, £102; Corby Odd Fellows' Club, £72; Cransley Benefit Society, £200; Cransley Little Odd Fellows' Club, £162; Deacon's Baptist Meeting, Kettering, £6; Desborough Tradesmen's Benefit Society, £71; executors for fifty different parties, whose united claims amount to about £20,000; Ecclesiastical Commissioners, Peterborough, £35; Earl Fitzwilliam, £294; Geddington Duke's Arms Club, £360; Geddington Queen's Cross Club, £307; Great Meeting Club, Kettering, £100; Harrowden Little Club, £204; Irthlingborough Club, £303; Junior Tradesmen's Club, Kettering, £217; Kettering Grammar School, £66; Kettering Reading Association, £16; Kettering and Northampton Turnpike Trusts, £419; Kettering Book Society, £17; Kettering Loan Blanket Society, £4; Kettering Poor Law Union, £1,457; Kettering Yeomanry, £4; Kettering Provident Friends' Society £243; Kettering Linen Trade (representatives of the late Duchess of Buccleugh), £200; Leicestershire Banking Company (Harborough Branch), £324; Kettering Library Committee, £2; Loddington Club, £171; Kettering Lying-in Society, £101; Kettering Missionary Society, £5; Northamptonshire Baptist Association, £9; Caledonian Lodge of Kettering Odd Fellows' Club, £452; Pytchley Foresters' Club, £44; Kettering Rechabite Club, £179; Rockingham Friendly Society, £111; Rowell Foresters' Club, £121; Rowell Tradesmen's Club, £156; Rushton Overseers, £30; Rowell Bible Society, £5; Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, £5; Stamford and Kettering Turnpike Trust, £112; Stanion Friendly Society, £72; Earl Spencer, £6; Thorp Malsor Friendly Society, £80; Kettering Temperance Union, £1; Thrapston Bank (Messrs. York and Eland), £126; Hunt's Charity, £19; Scott's Charity, £25; Burton Charity, £15; Independent Chapel, £101; Walgrave Odd Fellows, £27; Weekly Provident Society, £42; Weekly Friendly Society, £36; Weldon Odd Fellows, £46; Weldon Club, £144; Kettering Working Man's Club, £53. The only creditor holding security is the Rev. F. W. Gotch. The debtors to the estate include John Gotch, butcher, Kettering, £6,603; John Can Warden, farmer, Little Harrowden, £21,678, the bankrupts holding writings of premises at Harrowden of small value; War Department, Pall Mall, £2,330; W. Bays, builder, £533; John Cluff, baker, Kettering, £1,297; Richard Fish, draper, Wellingborough, £3,382; George Gill, ironmonger, Kettering, £6,362; the Rev. Allan MacPherson, Rue de Sharbeck, Brussels, £24,997, against which an assignment of life policies of very trifling value is held as security; John Strange, grocer, Kettering, £421; Police Commissioners, Whitehall, £56. The bankrupts' losses include £41,139 by bad debts, exclusive of £9,801 bad debts written off since May, 1852; £3,112 on property, and £131, on Midland Railway shares. The bankrupts passed their examination, the assignees not objecting.

THE BLANDFORD BANK.—IN RE OAK AND SNOW.

A MEETING for the proof of debts and choice of assignees, in the case of Messrs. Oak and Snow, bankers, of Blandford, Dorsetshire, was held before Mr. Commissioner Holroyd, at Basinghall-street, on the 19th April.

Mr. Lawrance appeared for Mr. Oak; Mr. Linklater for Mr. Snow; Mr. Welsh, of Poole, for creditors. Debts to the amount of £27,500 having been proved, Mr. Samuel Provis, of Salisbury, manager of the Wilts and Dorset Bank, and Mr. Malachi Fisher, of Blandford, draper, were chosen assignees; and Mr. Welsh was appointed solicitor in the case.

A preliminary statement of the bankrupts' affairs shows their debts to be £48,792, the assets being £18,267. An allowance of £5 per week was granted to each bankrupt.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY.

THE Lords Justices of the Court of Appeal in Chancery gave their judgment on the 19th April upon an appeal from the decision of Vice-Chancellor Kindersley, made under the following circumstances:—The bank was established under a deed of settlement, dated the 1st of July, 1836. It carried on business from that time until the 26th of November, 1857, when it stopped payment. Afterwards, and on the 30th of December, 1857, the company was registered under the provisions of the Joint-stock Companies Act, 20 and 21 Vict., c. 47; and on the 22nd of January a general meeting of the company took place, at which it was resolved, in the presence of a large body of creditors, that there should be a voluntary winding-up, under the powers conferred by the 20th and 21st Victoria, c. 49, s. 6. The petition upon which the order appealed from was made was presented in February, 1858, by George Milner, a contributory, and William Isaac Cookson, a creditor, asking that the voluntary winding-up already resolved upon at the meeting of January, might be continued under the supervision of the Court, and that the liquidators who had been appointed at that meeting might be continued in their office. The order of the Vice-Chancellor, dated on the 16th of February, was that the voluntary winding-up should be continued under the supervision of the Court, and be managed by the same voluntary liquidators with liberty to any shareholder, liquidator, or other person interested, to apply. This order was, however, to be under the following restrictions:—First, that the liquidators should not bring any action or institute any suit against either shareholders or debtors without the leave of the Court; secondly, that the liquidators should not compound, compromise, or release any debt or claim as between shareholders and the company, or creditors or debtors, over £2,000, except under the sanction of the Court.

The Lord Justice Turner was of opinion that, although the company had not been registered under the Joint-stock Companies' Act of 1857 till after it had stopped payment, and ceased to carry on business as a banking company, such registration was nevertheless valid, the company being, in his opinion, from the time of its formation down to the times of the passing of that act and of its registration under such act, a joint-stock banking company within the meaning of the act, and that therefore the Vice-Chancellor's order was a valid one. His lordship, having regard to the state of the accounts and assets of the company, as disclosed by a report drawn up and made since the conclusion of the argument of the appeal by

the liquidators for the information of the court, was of opinion that in the particular circumstances of the case a compulsory winding-up of the company under the direction of the court would be the more expedient course of proceeding to be adopted.

The Lord Justice Knight Bruce differed from the Lord Justice Turner as to the validity of the registration under the act of 1857, after the company had ceased to carry on business, which registration he held to be void. He agreed, however, with his learned brother in the opinion that the particular circumstances of the case rendered it inexpedient that the affairs of the company should be wound up by means of the machinery of voluntary liquidators.

An order was then made for the compulsory winding-up of the company under the direction of the court; the costs of the petitions to be paid out of the estate, and all parties who were properly before the court were to be allowed their costs.

On the same day another application was made to Vice-Chancellor Kindersley, as under the circumstances the official liquidators appointed under the voluntary winding-up were no longer in their former position, and there was therefore at present no hand to deal with the assets.

Mr. Baily, on behalf of the petitioners, Messrs. Milner and Cookson, applied as to protection of the assets, as it was of vital importance that something should be done, there being no less than £900,000 of debts.

Mr. Toller, on behalf of the bank, suggested that under the 84th section of the last act the court had power to appoint a receiver.

Mr. Glasse, for various creditors, thought that that could not be done unless an injunction had been granted.

The Vice-Chancellor thought that, under the 84th section, the Court had power to appoint a receiver, the jurisdiction to grant an injunction being in their alternative. What must be done, therefore, was to appoint the three liquidators receivers *ad interim*, until further order, without security, and this, if it had any operation, would act beneficially. This appointment must be without prejudice to the appointment of official liquidators, which should take place without delay.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

The election of governor and deputy-governor of the Bank of England for the ensuing year took place on the 6th April, and resulted in the unanimous return of Sheffield Neave, Esq., as Governor, Bonamy Dobree, Esq. as deputy-governor. On the following day the annual election of directors was proceeded with, and the result was as follows:—Mr. Thomas Baring, M.P., Mr. Weguelin, M.P., Mr. G. Lyall, M.P., Mr. Thomson Hankey, M.P., Mr. J. G. Hubbard, Mr. C. F. Huth, Mr. Alfred Latham, Mr. T. C. Smith, Mr. E. H. Palmer, Mr. G. W. Norman, Mr. J. Morris, Mr. A. Matheson, Mr. T. Masterman, Mr. J. Malcolmson, Mr. J. B. Heath, Mr. J. O. Hanson, Mr. J. A. Guthrie, Mr. G. J. Goschen, Mr. H. Wollaston Blake, Mr. H. H. Berens, Mr. Travers Buxton, Mr. A. E. Campbell, Mr. W. Cotton, and Mr. J. Pattison Currie.

THE COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY.

At a general meeting of the shareholders held at the banking-house, George-street, Sydney, on Friday, 22nd January, the following report was presented :—

The result of the operations of the bank during the half-year last past, enables the directors to submit a favourable report to the proprietors at this their nineteenth half-yearly meeting.

During the winter, the industrial interests of the colony suffered severely from floods and impassable roads, whilst more recently mercantile interests have been affected by excessive imports.

Although these trials have pressed heavily upon nearly all classes, the most praiseworthy efforts have, we feel much gratification in stating, been effectually made for the fulfilment of business engagements.

The exemption of this bank from losses of any kind during the past year, justifies the statement made in the last report "That the bank's affairs are in a sound and promising condition."

On the 18th November, the directors united with the other banks in allowing interest upon fixed deposits and current accounts.

The net profits realised during the half-year after deducting rebate on current bills and all expenses of management, &c., &c., are £22,290 14*s.* 7*d.* Undivided profits last half-year, £952 9*s.* 8*d.*; there is thus available for division, £23,243 4*s.* 3*d.*, which the directors propose to appropriate as follows :—

To payment of a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum	£17,879	11	0
Increase of the reserve fund	4,000	0	0
Profit and loss, new account	1,363	13	3
	£23,243	4	3

The dividend will be payable on and after the 23rd January.

THOMAS BARKER, Chairman.

Liabilities and Assets on Thursday, 31st December, 1857.

Dr.			
To capital paid up	£238,394	0	0
Reserve	40,000	0	0
Notes in circulation	189,574	0	0
Bills payable	1,786	18	6
Deposits and other liabilities	840,411	13	0
Balance due to other bankers	37,090	10	8
Profit and loss account...	28,537	10	11
	£1,375,794	13	1

Cr.			
By coin	£394,170	1	8
Government securities	41,343	5	0
Bills discounted, and other debts due to the bank ...	790,615	7	9
Balance due by other banks	133,158	12	8
Bank premises, furniture, &c., &c.	16,507	6	0
	£1,375,794	13	1

Profit and Loss Account.

Dr.			
To rebate on bills discounted not due at this date ...	£5,294	6	8
Dividend account for payment of a dividend for past half-year, at 15 per cent. per annum	17,879	11	0
Increase of reserve fund	4,000	0	0
Balance, being undivided profit, carried forward to profit and loss new account...	1,363	13	3
	£28,537	10	11
Cr.			
By amount from last half-year	£952	9	8
Profits for half-year ending 31st December, 1857 ...	27,585	1	3
	£28,537	10	11

Reserve Fund, 1857.

Dr.			
To balance, December 31st	£44,000	0	0
	£44,000	0	0
Cr.			
By balance, June 30th	£40,000	0	0
Transferred from profit and loss, December 31st ...	4,000	0	0

ZACHARIA INGOLD, *Manager.*

Sydney, 19th January, 1858.

We hereby certify that we have examined the securities, compared the balances, and counted the coin in the Commercial Bank, on the 31st December, 1857, and that we have found the same to be as specified in the balance-sheet hereunto annexed.

R. JONES,
HENRY G. SMITH, } *Auditors.*

Resolved—"That the report be received and adopted."

"The thanks of the meeting be voted to the directors for their careful and successful attention to the bank's interests."

AUSTRALIAN JOINT-STOCK BANK.

THE half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held on Friday, 29th January, at the banking-house of the company in George-street. The following report was read and adopted:—

Report of the Directors of the Australian Joint-stock Bank to the Proprietors, for the half-year ended the 31st December, 1857.

The undivided profits brought from last half-year	£2,972	12	0		
With addition of sum since transferred ...	35	2	11		
Amount to				£3,007	14	11
Carried forward				£3,007	14	11

Brought forward			3,007 14 11
To which are to be added the net profits for the past six months, after deducting rebate on current bills, and all expenses of management, &c., &c.	17,971 17 3		
Less 10 per cent. thereon carried to credit of reserve fund	1,797 3 9		
			16,174 13 6
Making amount of profit at this date			£19,182 8 5
Out of which, in pursuance of the provisions of the deed of settlement, the directors declare a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and this on the paid-up capital of the bank (350,000) will require			12,500 0 0
Leaving balance of undivided profit carried forward to next half-year			£6,682 8 5
The reserve fund with the above amount of £1,797 3*s.* 9*d.* added thereto, will thus be increased to the sum of ...			£18,208 11 9

Balance sheet, 31st December, 1857.

Dr.

To capital paid up			...£250,000 0 0
Notes in circulation			... 137,976 0 0
Deposits and other liabilities			... 768,809 0 11
Profit and loss			... 19,182 8 5
Reserve fund			... 18,208 11 9
Adjusting interest			... 3,883 3 10
			£1,198,059 4 11

Cr.

By coin			...£194,455 2 3
Bullion			... 68 2 3
Government securities			... 28,500 0 0
Notes of other banks			... 2,324 6 0
Bank premises			... 26,484 14 5
Bills discounted, and other debts due to the bank			... 946,227 0 0
			£1,198,059 4 11

Profit and Loss.

Dr.

To reserve fund			...£1,797 3 9
Rebate on current bills			... 3,883 3 10
Balance			...19,182 8 5
			£24,862 16 0

Cr.

By amount brought forward	...£3,007	14	11
Profits for the half-year	...21,855	1	1
	£24,862	16	0

Reserve Fund.

Dr.

To balance	£18,208	11	9

Cr.

By amount brought forward	£16,387	16	1
Sum since recovered (previously written off)	23	11	11
Amount from profit and loss	1,797	3	9
	£18,208	11	9

M. E. MURNIN, Chairman.
A. H. RICHARDSON, General Manager.

Examined and found correct.
H. MACKAY, P. F. MORGAN, } Auditors.

The dividend will be payable at the banking-house of the company on and after Monday, the 1st February.

Mr. Clark Irving was elected a director, in the room of Mr. Ralph Mayer Robey, retiring by rotation; and Mr. Hugh Mackay and Mr. Ambrose Foss were elected auditors.

The directors avail themselves of this opportunity of expressing their best thanks to their late colleague T. W. Smart, Esq., for the very valuable services he has rendered to the bank during his residence in London; and they feel confident that his exertions on behalf of the bank will not be relaxed.

Mr. Edward Wrench, the late general manager of the bank, having, towards the close of the year, after a period of several years' successful management of the bank's affairs, placed his appointment at the disposal of the board, the directors proceeded with much care and anxiety to elect his successor, and from numerous candidates selected Mr. Alexander Haywood Richardson, late assistant-inspector of the Union Bank of Australia, who entered upon his high duties from the 1st January.

It was then moved by Mr. Thomas Holt, and seconded by Mr. John Fairfax, and carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting hereby records its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the bank by Mr. Wrench during the time he filled the responsible office of manager and general manager for a period of three and a-half years."

A vote of thanks to the chairman and board of directors was then passed, and the meeting separated.

BANK OF JAMAICA.

THE half-yearly meeting of shareholders of this bank took place on the 9th March, Mr. James Davidson, President, in the chair, when the following report was presented.

The directors have now to submit to the proprietors their half-yearly report on the affairs of the bank, with statement of the profits for the six months, ending 31st December, 1857 :—

By balance at credit of profit and loss account, for the half-year ending 31st December			£6,617	12 5
To business expenses	£2,155	19 5		
Six months' dividend to 31st December last, at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum	2,940	0 0		
			5,095	19 5
Leaving a surplus on the six months' transactions of ...			£1,521	13 0

The directors have further to submit a statement of assets and liabilities :—

LIABILITIES.

Paid-up capital	£84,000	0	0
Circulation	61,186	16	0
Deposits	65,494	10	3
Unclaimed dividends	154	16	7
Reserved fund	10,436	12	10
	£221,272	15	8

ASSETS.

Bills of exchange, cash in hand, balance due by foreign and other agents, discounts, and other securities ...	219,743	9	11
Bank premises	1,529	5	9
	£221,272	15	8

In laying the above before the shareholders, the directors are much gratified in being able to state, that notwithstanding the late unparalleled monetary crisis in England and the United States, affecting as they have done other countries and colonies, the bank has sustained no inconvenience or loss. The directors therefore propose the continuation of the dividend for the six months, at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, thus leaving £1,521 13*s.* to be carried in accumulation of the reserved fund, which will then amount to £11,958 5*s.* 10*d.* The directors have only further to mention the retirement from the board of the Hon. Alex. Barclay, who, during his connexion with the institution, has by his experience, judgment, and impartiality, rendered much good service. His resignation is a cause of regret to the directors, and must also be to the shareholders in general. The report and dividend as recommended were adopted, and the usual vote of thanks was carried to the chairman, the directors, manager, and other officers of the bank.

THE OTTOMAN BANK.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders in this bank was held on the 30th of March, at the London Tavern, H. A. Bruce, Esq., M.P. (in the absence of A. H. Layard, Esq., the chairman), in the chair. The chairman laid on the table a list of the shareholders, and the minutes of

the meeting held in August, having been read and confirmed, the assistant secretary, Mr. Miller, proceeded to read the following report:—

"Although the directors have on two occasions called the shareholders together, to submit to them a report on the affairs of the bank, the present is the first meeting held under the deed of settlement. The appended accounts have been audited by Mr. J. E. Coleman, the auditor appointed under the deed of settlement, in conjunction with Mr. Tindal Atkinson, who, at the meeting in August last, was selected to act with him until the present meeting, when it will be the province of the shareholders to appoint two auditors for the year ensuing. The half-year ending 31st December last opened with the most satisfactory prospects, the position and influence of the bank having materially increased, and its usefulness being more generally recognised in the East. Ere long, however, it became evident that the monetary condition of this country, with its consequent effect on the commerce of the East, could not be looked upon without serious apprehension. The transactions of the bank then pending were on a scale of considerable magnitude, and prudence demanded that considerations of profit should, for the moment, give way to those of safety and independence of position, during an impending crisis. The directors accordingly issued orders that the business of the bank should be immediately restricted in every direction, and that large remittances should, for the time being, be made in specie. These orders were promptly and effectively carried out. The contraction of the business necessarily involved a diminution of the profits of the half-year; but it will be seen that, notwithstanding the check thus given to the operations of the branches, the gross profits fall very little short of those of the preceding six months. It is not to be supposed, however, that so critical a period could be passed without sustaining loss from bad debts. After writing off an amount considered by the directors to be a full provision for such contingencies, together with the expenses of the half-year, and a sum of £1,000 against preliminary expenses, there remains a net profit on the half-year of £6,136 4*s.* 2*d.* This, added to the amount carried forward from the preceding half-year, forms a sum of £21,165 10*s.* 8*d.* Looking at the exceptional circumstances of the half-year which has passed, and to the fact that, in reality, the power and facilities of the bank to make profit have increased, it might be supposed that the amount brought forward as surplus profit from previous accounts might with justice be infringed upon for the purpose of making a dividend. The directors would gladly have adopted this view, if they could have found it consistent with their duty, and the real and permanent interests of the shareholders. It is after mature deliberation that they have come to the unanimous conclusion that they cannot on this occasion recommend any payment of interest or dividend. The attention of the court has been specially directed to the unusually great fluctuations in the exchanges with Constantinople during the last six months, and they have been seriously impressed by the apparent tendency to depreciation in the currency of Turkey, which, were it to assume a permanent character, would obviously affect that portion of the capital of the bank which is placed at Constantinople. Such capital is at present most advantageously employed there, and there exists no reason for its remittance home, or for its transfer elsewhere. Moreover, the Turkish government have latterly shewn a disposition to apply themselves to the reform of their monetary system, and the directors hope that, at no very distant period, the finance and currency of Turkey may be placed on a more satisfactory footing than heretofore. They do not find, however, in any of these facts, a sufficient reason for delaying to make provision for the possibility they have indicated,

arnestly recommend to the shareholders, as a step of a safe and pru-ster, at once to establish on a substantial scale a reserve fund, which, rding against any unforeseen contingencies, and providing as far for a steady dividend in future years, will form a guarantee for the of the capital of the bank. They, therefore, recommend the rs to set apart from the balance now standing at credit of loss a sum of £20,000 as the nucleus of such reserve fund, and maining £1,165 10*s.* 8*d.* to be carried forward to next account. ast meeting the remaining call, which was then notified, has been so that the whole capital of the bank is now paid up. In accord-the provisions of the deed of settlement the directors go out of is meeting; and, being eligible, they, with the exception of Mr. sheim (whose continued residence on the continent deprives the is services), offer themselves for re-election. Notice has been Ir. James Alexander, of the firm of Fletcher, Alexander & Co., ation to offer himself for a seat in the direction. It will be the he shareholders, as before indicated, to elect auditors for the ar."

ities and Assets of the Ottoman Bank, December 31*st*, 1857.

LIABILITIES.

, viz., 25,000 shares at £20					
—all called	£500,000	0	0		
itstanding on third call ...	1,300	0	0		
				£498,700	0 0
exchange, and amounts due by the bank and ranches, on deposits and current accounts ...				356,785	11 8
e for bad and doubtful debts				16,000	0 0
nd loss				21,165	10 8
				£892,651	2 4

ASSETS.

hand in London and at the branches ...	£89,674	1	8
exchange and promissory notes, ditto ditto ...	229,309	18	10
es due to the bank in current accounts ...	176,380	15	3
nd securities	387,558	2	2
old premises, furniture, &c., in London and at ranches...	4,728	4	5
	887,651	2	4
e of preliminary expenses	5,000	0	0
	£892.651	2	4

Profit and Loss Account 31*st December*, 1857.

tion of 12*s.* per share to the proprietors by way terest	£15,000	0	0
e carried down	15,029	6	6
	£30,029	6	6

Dec. 31. To general charges of the London establishment, including rent, direction, salaries, office expenses, &c.	5,961	2	1
Provision for bad and doubtful debts, &c.,...	12,000	0	0
Proportion of preliminary expenses ...	1,000	0	0
Balance	21,165	10	8
	£40,126	12	9

Dr.

July 1st. 1857. By amount brought forward from last account	30,029	6	6
	£30,029	6	6
December 31st. By balance brought down	15,029	6	6
Profits to this date for the half-year...	25,097	6	3
	£40,126	12	9

The Chairman said that in rising to move the adoption of the report, it would be his duty first to account for the absence of their chairman. He was sure that it would have been a source of great satisfaction and gratification to the shareholders to have heard a statement of their position from one who was so familiar with men and things in the country in which this bank carried on its operations. Their chairman, Mr. Layard, had from his early youth taken the strongest interest in the welfare of the East, and he could not behold the crisis in the eastern empire without making himself acquainted with the relations between the governors and the governed—(hear, hear); and he had gone out on his errand with the sanction of the board. He begged to state on behalf of himself and his colleagues the high sense which they entertained of the services which Mr. Layard had bestowed on the bank. They all knew the disinterested motives with which he entered upon this undertaking; they all knew how he had sacrificed his personal feelings and interests to the promotion of the business of the bank. (Hear.) Having said thus much, he must add that he hoped this would be his own first and only appearance at this board in his present capacity. He trusted this would be the only occasion on which the directors would have the unpleasant duty imposed upon them to recommend that no dividend should be made. Before he proceeded to make any observations on the report, he wished to say a few words by way of preface. They all knew how common an imputation it was to throw on boards of directors that their reports were of an uncandid nature; that they were apt to put forth only those points which went to establish their case; and that they would keep back many observations which were absolutely essential to a knowledge of the concerns of a bank, and which the shareholders had a right to see. (Hear.) Before he proceeded further, he wished to make this assurance to the shareholders—that there was no fact of importance which was not stated in the report which had just been read. (Hear.) The directors had been most careful not to keep back any one fact, but at the same time they did not wish to blind the shareholders as to what was the real position of the bank. (Hear, hear.) The report stated the last half-year ending December 31, 1857, opened under unusually satisfactory prospects; that the credit of the bank had risen; and that there was every prospect that the dividend

which might be anticipated would be of a gratifying nature. Those expectations, however, were for the present, doomed to be disappointed, and those hopes had been clouded from causes which he need scarcely refer to. How the monetary crisis had affected them he need not say, or what were the precautions necessary to be adopted; but the board deemed it to be their first duty to contract the business and to draw on their resources as little as possible, and to do this without depriving themselves of profit. From a contraction of business a diminution of profit necessarily arose; but the present circumstances of the bank did not depend on the result of that contraction—there had been losses also. But the question which the shareholders would ask, and which he anticipated would be asked, was, how does this arise? To that he replied that it arose from the peculiar circumstances of the time. He was sure the shareholders would admit that it was impossible to carry on banking operations from Galatz in the north to Beyrout in the south without incurring loss. But that loss had been sustained by the miscalculations and views of the managers of their branch establishments. But what were the circumstances under which the directors established their branches at Constantinople, at Galatz, and at Beyrout? If it had been only necessary to secure the services of gentlemen competent to manage a banking establishment, as in England, at a fair remuneration, that arrangement could have been easily made; but the case was very different in the East; the qualifications required were different, for in addition to obtaining men of integrity, zeal, ability, and knowledge of English business, they must find persons well acquainted with different languages, and with the mode of transacting business in the Levant; they must have persons ready to combat with the artifices of their unscrupulous rivals; they must not be nice with men of that character, but men capable of dealing with such people were not easily to be found. Some who had been engaged had proved themselves up to the mark; there were others, of whom upon the whole he desired to speak with respect, who had not proved themselves equal to such a position, and who had, therefore, been put aside, and men of better qualifications had been appointed; and he begged to assure the meeting that they had at every one of the branches gentlemen as well qualified as any men in Europe or Asia to meet the peculiar difficulties of their position. Now, as to the financial position of the bank, the shareholders would see by the accounts which were appended to the report, that in the course of the last half-year they had made a profit in round numbers of £25,000, while the general expenses, &c., showed a sum of £6,000, leaving a sum of £19,000; and out of that sum the directors proposed to appropriate £1,000 towards the payment of preliminary expenses, and to set aside £12,000 for bad and doubtful debts, and the remaining balance (£6,000) it was thought by some might be applied to a dividend. The balance of the last account to July was £15,000; this last half-year it was £21,000, which was in strictness applicable to the purposes of a dividend. Upon this subject the directors had had a variety of communications, and as one of the shareholders, Mr. Gainsford, of Sheffield, begged that his letter might be read (and his letter stood in very favourable contrast to some communications which had been received), he would read it. [The writer, through the chairman, begged to address the directors of the Ottoman Bank against the course which they intended to recommend, of carrying the profits to the reserve fund. He was no time speculator, and if he thought the course recommended was a right one, he would not hesitate to support the directors. But he opposed such a policy, as dangerous in

principle. He deemed it to be dangerous to lay aside anything to the reserve fund beyond that amount which was absolutely required. To keep always adding to the reserve fund was injurious, because it had a tendency to make directors careless as to results. If any risk were apprehended, it was better to trench upon the capital; but let the general capital be divided. (Hear, hear). No doubt, this gentleman expressed his opinion clearly and strongly. The directors had several courses open to them, some of which were suggested by themselves. They might have taken £12,000 set aside for bad and doubtful debts, they might have made a dividend of 8 per cent., and they might have added £6,000 only as a portion of the reserve fund. The third proposition might have been made, and that was to make no dividend, but to add to the balance as reserve, and start with a clear balance-sheet. This matter was fully discussed at the board. In the first place, the subject of a dividend was entrusted to the consideration of some gentlemen who were selected as a committee, who went fully into the matter, and the question was again discussed at the board, and they were unanimously of opinion that not only the prudent but the honest course was to recommend that no dividend should be declared. The directors could not but feel the hardship which this must entail on many of the shareholders, but they were bound to consider the general position of the bank before they recommended any other course in respect to the reserve until it should have arrived at a large amount. Even in England, the joint-stock banks had their capital invested in the funds of the country in order to meet the fluctuations, which rarely exceeded 10 per cent. It was usual to have a considerable reserve fund, and that was the case in England, where the fluctuations rarely exceeded, as he said before, 10 per cent. But in Turkey the value of the English sovereign had varied from 117 to 163 piastres; therefore, there was a fluctuation of 40 per cent. There was no doubt that, in the long run, these fluctuations might right themselves, and that a general average might be struck; but the directors, under the circumstances in which they were placed, thought it their duty not to weaken the reserve, but to strengthen it, and they therefore added £6,000 to a fund already existing. Shareholders might ask what was the opinion of the directors as to the present position of the currency in Turkey. They had told them the truth—they did not wish to raise unnecessary alarm or fears—they could not say that they supposed the Turkish government would take no measures on this subject—they were not prepared to say that these questions would not right themselves; but he had great pleasure in stating that the Turkish government were engaged in a plan to put the currency in such a position as to prevent such disastrous results as had occurred. (Hear, hear.) Their general manager was greatly in the confidence of the late Redschid Pacha, and he was consulted by the ministers in Turkey in recommending a system which was so essential to the interests of this bank and to the commercial interests of Turkey. In putting aside the sum of £12,000, for bad and doubtful debts, the board wished the proprietors to understand that that sum would cover every sum which had arisen of this character during the whole of the commercial crisis. During the present half-year they had had an enlarged and increased business, which had been carried on without a single loss; so that up to this time the hopes of a good dividend were increased. Having made no loss, the directors felt justified in holding out the prospect of a good dividend at the next meeting. It would be their policy, as long as their capital was exposed to those fluctuations to which he had alluded, to recommend an increase to the reserve fund. But as soon as the Turkish government placed its currency on

a fair footing, it would then be for the directors to consider how far the shareholders ought to be benefited, whether by a bonus or otherwise. This was the policy which the directors felt was the safe and prudent one to be carried out. There was one point to which he begged to refer. He had stated to the meeting the extraordinary fluctuations in the exchanges from 117 to 163; but he wished to say that these were extraordinary fluctuations which did not now exist. He wishes the shareholders to understand that no present danger of such fluctuations existed. Their capital was well employed, and therefore there was no present apprehension that any loss would accrue from fluctuations of capital. (Hear.) He had now gone through many of the topics of the report, and should be happy to give any information on points which might require explanation. On the subject of the directors, he had to state the directors were self-elected, and the whole of them offered themselves for re-election. One vacancy had occurred on the board, and Mr. James Alexander intended to offer himself to fill that vacancy. He now moved that the report be adopted.

The motion having been seconded, the question was about to be put, when

Mr. Digby Seymour, M.P., contended that the conclusion at which the chairman arrived was, in his opinion, perfectly illogical. If there was no peculiar danger in the horizon, and nothing was kept back from this report, then, he thought, it followed that the position was stronger for the directors making a dividend of 8 or 10 per cent. (hear, hear), instead of making no dividend at all. He thought from the speech they had heard, and from the report, that a dividend ought to be declared, especially upon contrasting the assets and liabilities of 1857. The honourable gentleman went through a variety of items of accounts, and condemned the policy pursued by the board. By the report he found that all the directors were obliged to go out at that meeting; but it appeared they offered themselves for election. He assumed they had not given the 21 days' notice required under the deed of settlement, and, therefore, they could not be elected. The clauses he referred to were 124 and 135. They held office till that day; they were not retiring directors. They were told that the Turkish government were exhibiting an anxious desire to improve their currency, and he should propose that this meeting be adjourned for three months, and upon the next occasion they would know better what the exchanges were likely to be; let them see what steps the Turkish government took. That appeared to him to be the middle course, but if the meeting were against it he should then propose to take one half of £20,000 for division. He concluded by moving as an amendment—"That the reception of the report be postponed from this day, to an adjourned meeting, to be held this day three months."

Mr. F. J. Smith seconded the amendment.

The Chairman having replied to certain items of account referred to by Mr. Seymour, called upon the legal adviser of the company to state the law in respect to the case of the directors.

Mr. Drake said the point raised had had his most careful consideration, as to whether the directors were called upon to give a formal notice—and he unhesitatingly stated his opinion that in respect to the words retiring directors, under the 129th clause, it was provided that there being no other persons than retiring directors, they should be elected without notice.

Mr. George Edward Seymour cordially supported the original motion, as did Mr. Lawrence.

Mr. Tite, M.P., said the adjournment for three months would be very inconvenient. When they met six months hence, the point at issue would

naturally be discussed in that room. He, as a director in other establishments, felt that directors had three good reasons for declaring a dividend. First, there was the natural inclination to make a good show of their position; next, there was the interest which they had in making a dividend; and, thirdly, the bank which did not pay dividends did not promote its credit. For himself he was an enemy to large reserved funds; because, as Mr. Gilbart, in his book on banking, held, it had a tendency to make directors careless. Now, the board had been successful men in their own affairs, and he presumed they would be so in the management of the affairs of others. He did not see the advantage of a reserve but to enable them to equalise the dividend, the policy of which he doubted. Looking to the fluctuations in the exchanges in Turkey arising from a debased currency, he thought the directors had acted as prudent men.

A very long conversation followed; and on the amendment being put, two hands were held up for it.

The original motion was then put, and was carried unanimously.

The directors were re-elected; Mr. Alexander was elected a director; and the auditors were re-elected unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closed the proceedings.

AGRA AND UNITED SERVICE BANK.

THE first ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held on the 17th April at their office, Cannon-street; Lieutenant-Colonel Henderson, deputy chairman of the company, in the chair.

The following is an abstract of the report:—

The past year has been marked by serious and unprecedented disturbances in India, especially at the seats of our two least important branches, Agra and Lahore; but the shareholders will learn with satisfaction that the loss sustained consequent on the mutiny has been very small. At Lahore there has been none, and at Agra the manager estimates the sum required for repairs of the bank premises, which were partially destroyed, at not more than £800, a considerable portion of which, if not the whole, will doubtless be recovered as compensation from the Indian Government. Happily the cash, securities, and account books of the branch had been removed from the house in sufficient time, and safely deposited in the fort. Not less gratifying is the fact that the bank has passed through the late severe monetary crisis with little injury. The majority of the bills remitted from India and China have been duly met; and with respect to others we have been able to fall back upon the goods or produce by which, as a general rule, our investments in bills are secured. Nothing in these cases beyond an inconsiderable loss is anticipated, and on bills not so secured the loss will also, it is believed, be immaterial. The accounts, including the operations of the late bank in India, are for the year ended on the 31st of December last, and show that for that period the larger branches have been successfully worked. The late Indian Bank was taken over, after payment of dividend on its account at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the first six months of 1857,' with a surplus undivided profit of £25,284. Of this the directors appropriated £15,284, in augmentation of the reserve fund, and placed £10,000 to credit of the new bank in London. They consider the *minimum* of reserve should be £200,000, exclusive of landed property, and the appropriation

above mentioned makes the sum now at credit of that account £164,535. The aggregate profits have enabled the directors, after providing for the amount (£2,569) at debit of preliminary expenses, to declare a further dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 10*s.* per share, free of income-tax, for the last six months of 1857, and to carry £11,834 to profit and loss of the current year. Prior to declaration of this dividend, a very careful analysis of the bank's affairs was specially made, and all debts deemed irrecoverable were written off.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, expressed his regret at the absence of the chairman of the company. He congratulated the meeting that notwithstanding the late commercial panic and the frightful outbreak in India, the bank was in so prosperous a condition, showing not only a steady but an increasing prosperity. The reserve fund was now £164,555, but the directors thought that, considering the increase of capital, it was desirable to fix it at £200,000.

General Pollock seconded the motion.

Major Hyslop complained of the meagreness of the accounts presented.

Mr. Neilson (the general manager) said they were in the form usually adopted by the bank.

Mr. Newmarch (the auditor) read the minute of the board defining the duties of the auditors, and stated that the accounts now presented were drawn up in the form adopted by all the London banks.

In answer to a question from Colonel Bazett, it was stated the amount of bills of failed firms held by the bank is £20,000 secured and £11,000 unsecured, and that little or no loss is anticipated from either. These totals do not, however, include the claims on the Eastern Banking Corporation, from which also payment in full is expected.

In answer to another question,

Mr. Neilson stated that by the deed of settlement no director could obtain an advance unless on good security.

The report and accounts were then adopted, including the dividend as proposed.

On the motion that the retiring directors be re-elected,

Mr. Richardson complained that the number of directors was too large; twelve directors, with a chairman and deputy-chairman, were not required to conduct the affairs of the bank. He also objected to the principle of always re-electing the directors. He would wish to know what remuneration the directors received.

The Chairman stated that the number of the directors was fixed by the deed; their remuneration was £200 a year each.

After some discussion on the principle of re-elections, the retiring directors were re-elected.

The appointment of Mr. Newmarch and Mr. Williams as auditors was confirmed.

After a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and manager, and especially to Mr. Matthews, manager at Agra, the meeting separated.

THE LATE ROYAL BRITISH BANK TRIALS.

The Queen v. Brown and others.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, on the 20th April, Mr. Sergeant Shee said this was an ex officio information, tried at the last sittings at Guildhall, before Lord Campbell, when a verdict was given for the Crown against all

the defendants in this case, who were co-directors, &c., of the Royal British Bank; and he moved, on the part of Mr. Richard Hartley Kennedy, for a rule to show cause why a new trial should not be had on the ground that the verdict was against evidence, and on misdirection on the part of the learned judges who tried the case.—Mr. Edwin James made a lengthened address to the Court in favour of a new trial on the part of Mr. M'Leod.—Mr. Kennedy addressed the Court for Mr. Humphrey Brown.—Mr. Slade, for Mr. Owen, followed on the same side, and said the case was of such importance that there ought to be a new trial.—Mr. D. Seymour also moved for a new trial on behalf of Mr. Cameron. The learned gentleman stated that all Mr. Cameron did as manager was under the orders of the board of directors, and that he could not be held responsible for what followed.—Lord Campbell said the Court would defer judgment in all the cases until they had read the informations and gone through portions of the evidence.

Communications.

COUPONS ON RAILWAY BONDS.

SIR,—Will you be kind enough to state in your next number whether, in all cases, coupons on railway bonds require a penny draft stamp; and if not, what are the exceptions?

I remain, yours respectfully,
H. L.

6th April, 1858.

[If liable to stamp duty at all, we presume they must be liable in all cases. We do not observe the word "coupon" in any of the "Stamp Acts. Perhaps coupons are comprised under the term "letters of credit." If coupons are "receipts," they will only require the stamp when they exceed £2.]

RIGHT OF BANKER TO SUE ON BOND DEPOSITED AS SECURITY.

SIR,—I request you will favour me with an answer to the following query:—

A customer overdraws his account at his banker's, and lodges, as security, a bond of a third party in his (the customer's) favour, and with it a simple memorandum of deposit, declaring that the said bond is lodged as collateral security for such overdrawn account.

The banker having given due notice of the deposit, can he sue upon the bond, without its having been formally assigned by indorsement or deed?

Your obedient servant,
A SUBSCRIBER.

8th April, 1858.

[We think a power to sue in the name of the depositor would be implied, but there might be difficulties attending such a course. In a well drawn mortgage or assignment of a bond, an express power to sue would be given.]

Notes of the Month.

THE DEBT OF INDIA.—Some parliamentary papers on the debt of India, moved for by Mr. Crawford, have been published, which show the total liabilities of the territorial government up to the beginning of the present year. Among these the most important is the notification put forth for the reduction of the Five per Cents. into Four per Cents. in April, 1854, to which the holders were led to assent by certain flourishing representations of the condition and prospects of the Treasury, and which was followed in less than twelve months (March, 1855) by a new proposal from the Government to borrow £2,750,000 at the old rate of 5 per cent. This fresh loan was called the Public Works Loan, and is not redeemable until 1870. Annexed is an abstract of the aggregate debt:—

Loan bearing 10	per cent. interest	£715
Do. 8	per cent. interest	14,437
Do. 6	per cent. interest	345,725
Do. 5	per cent. interest	3,744,141
Do. 4	per cent. interest	39,392,844
Do. 3½	per cent. interest	530,730
		44,028,592
Temporary loans		219,656
Treasury notes		967,711
Deposits, including the Carnatic and other funds		5,267,410
		£50,483,369

In addition to the above there have been loans opened since the 1st of May, 1856. One at 4½ per cent., which was opened on the 30th of August, 1856, and closed the 16th of January, 1857, to which

The subscriptions were	£368,137
And one at 5 per cent., opened January 16, 1857, to which, up to the 20th of February last, there had been subscribed, in cash £3,788,788	
And in paper of the 3½, 4, and 4½ per cent. loans .. £1,877,959	
	£5,666,747

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1858.—An account of the gross public income and expenditure for the year ended the 31st March, 1858, together with the balances in the Exchequer at the commencement and at the termination of the year, and the amount of funded or unfunded debt created or redeemed within the year, has been presented as a return to the House of Commons. The different items are as follows:—Income—Customs, £23,109,104 15*s.* 9*d.*; Excise, £17,825,000; stamps, £7,415,719 0*s.* 2*d.*; taxes (land and assessed), £3,152,033 7*s.* 4*d.*; property tax, £11,586,114 10*s.* 4*d.*; Post Office, £2,920,000; Crown lands, £276,654 4*s.* 1*d.*; miscellaneous, £1,596,887 5*s.* 7*d.*; total, £67,881,513 3*s.* 3*d.* Expenditure—Interest and management of debt, £28,627,103 2*s.* 4*d.*; civil list, £401,257 11*s.*; annuities and pensions, £334,997 7*s.* 6*d.*; salaries and allowances, £157,548 13*s.* 2*d.*; diplomatic salaries and pensions, £158,933 17*s.* 10*d.*; courts of justice, £563,224 17*s.* 6*d.*; miscellaneous (consolidated fund), £178,029 17*s.* 1*d.*; abolition of Sound dues, £1,125,206; army, £12,915,156 15*s.* 6*d.*; navy, £10,590,000; miscellaneous (civil), £7,277,719 9*s.* 7*d.*; salaries (revenue department), £4,358,988 10*s.* 2*d.*; Persian expedition, £900,000; war with China, £590,693; Exchequer bonds redeemed, £2,000,000; sinking fund, or £5,000,000 loan, £250,000; total, £70,378,859; showing an excess of expenditure, including bonds, &c., over income, of £2,497,345 18*s.* 5*d.* The balances in the Exchequer on the 31st of March, 1857, were £8,668,370 14*s.* 7*d.*; on the 31st of March, 1858, they were £6,657,802 4*s.* 2*d.*

DEATH OF A. W. ROBARTS, ESQ.—Our readers of all political parties will regret to learn that the death of Mr. Robarts occurred on the 2nd April, after an illness of two or three days only. He had been for many years at the head of one of the oldest and most respectable banking firms in the kingdom, and held a high position for integrity and sound judgment in the financial world, while in private life he was universally esteemed by those who knew him. In several former Parliaments he represented the borough of Maidstone, to which he was first introduced in the year 1818, when he was returned at the head of the poll. Mr. Robarts was again returned at the general election which took place on the death of George the Third in 1820, and was replaced in his seat in the several Parliaments of 1826, '31, '32, the stirring periods of Catholic emancipation and the parliamentary reform agitation, and finally in 1835. After that period, Mr. Lewis, a conservative, who had unsuccessfully contested the borough in 1832, acquired an ascendancy, and introduced Mr. Disraeli as his colleague in 1837, since which Mr. Robarts has not been re-elected. Indeed, in 1838, he retired altogether from political life. Mr. Robarts had reached the ripe old age of seventy-nine years; and at the time of his death was chairman of the Committee of Bankers.

EXCHEQUER-BILLS.—The amount of Exchequer bills raised or authorized to be raised, charged on the aids or supplies of 1857, was £21,049,700, and of this 138,200*l.* has been paid off, leaving £20,911,500 outstanding on the 31st ult.

BULLION.—The total amount of gold bullion (bar and foreign coin) purchased by the Bank of England in 1857 was £8,870,298, of which £7,796,933 was in bars), and the quantity of gold bullion sold was £3,024,894. The excess of payments to the public of British gold coin was £7,126,143, and the excess of receipts £2,299,055, £4,859,561, worth of British gold coin was received from the Mint.

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.—A court of directors was held at the East India House, on the 14th April, when William Butterworth Bayley, Esq., Russell Ellice, Esq., and Henry Thoby Princep, Esq., who at a previous court had been re-elected directors, took the prescribed oath and their seats. Sir Frederick Currie, Baronet, was chosen chairman, and William Josiah Eastwick, Esq. deputy-chairman for the year ensuing.

MR. HUMPHREY BROWN.—At the quarterly meeting of the Town Council of Tewkesbury, held on the 12th April, the Town-clerk reported that he had received a communication from the Lord Chancellor, requesting him to forward to the Crown-office the commission of the peace for that borough, in order that the name of Mr. Humphrey Brown might be erased from it. He had accordingly forwarded the commission, which had been returned to him with the name of Mr. Brown erased.

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

April 1.—The directors of the Bank of Holland reduced their rate of discount from 4 per cent., at which it was fixed on the 12th February, to 3½ per cent.

1.—Tenders for a loan for the East India Company were opened, when £4,800,000 out of £5,000,000, the amount required, was taken at from 97 to 99. The reserve price of the Company being 97.

3.—Suspension announced of the firm of Messrs. Maitland, Ewing and Co., in the East India and China trade, with liabilities estimated at about £200,000.

3.—Suspension of Messrs. Newcomen, Noble, and Co., engaged in the India trade.

11.—The rate of discount at Hamburg receded from 2 to 1¾ per cent.

15.—Suspension announced of the firm of Sir G. E. Hodgkinson, and Co., shipowners and brokers The liabilities estimated at £24,000.

16.—In consequence of the position in which Messrs. Calvert and Co., the brewers, have found themselves, they have deemed it necessary for the satisfaction of all persons interested, to place their books in the hands of Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Co., the accountants, in order to undergo a thorough examination.

18.—Suspension announced of Messrs. Robert Browne and Co. engaged in the Australian trade. Liabilities between £30,000 and £40,000.

19.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the House of Commons, propounded his annual financial statement. The imposition of the penny stamp on bankers' cheques proposed.

22.—A petition, opened in the Court of Bankruptcy, against the London and Eastern Banking Corporation; but notice of appeal given.

BANKING MOVEMENTS.

Baron Simon de Sina, banker of Vienna, has notified by circular his withdrawal from the house bearing his name, which will henceforth be carried on by Baron John de Sina, brother of the late Baron George.

The bank of Baron d'Eichthal at Munich will, it is stated, be closed on the 1st of July, the actual possessor, Baron Charles d'Eichthal, retiring from business to occupy himself exclusively with the management of his large estates.

At a meeting of the Committee of Bankers held on the 27th of April, it was resolved that, in the event of the penny cheques stamp becoming law, the cost of such stamped cheques shall be charged to their customers.

Mr. Glyn has been elected to succeed the late Mr. Robarts as chairman of the Committee of Bankers, and Mr. Bevan is to be deputy-chairman.

BANKING OBITUARY.

On the 13th of April, at Upper Clapton, Mr. Richard Parvin, of the Bank of England.

On the 24th of April, at Caius Cross Parsonage, near Stroud, Mr. Zechariah Uwins, of the Bank of England, aged 79.

On the 26th of April, at Camberwell, Mr. T. F. Gastineau, of the Bank of England, aged 78.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following mercantile suspensions have taken place during the past month; the two first-mentioned representing considerable debts and liabilities. Messrs. Maitland, Ewing and Co. will, it is fully expected, pay 20*s.* in the pound —the accounts showing a surplus of £26,000:—

April.—Messrs. Maitland, Ewing and Co., London, East India and China trade.
„ Newcomen, Noble and Co., London, East India trade.
„ Sir G. E. Hodgkinson and Co., London, shipowners and brokers.
„ Robert Browne, and Co., London, Australian trade.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1858.

THE course of mercantile and financial affairs this month have not been important, except in so far as regards the negotiation of the East India loan and the development of the budget. Political anxieties have partially interfered with the smooth progress of business, the pitch of excitement in France, together with diplomatic changes, having repressed the slight animation that was apparent shortly after the subsidence of the panic. Notwithstanding, however, the exertions of some portion of the press to create unnecessary alarm, the alliance between France and England remains undisturbed, and there seems every expectation that the state of our continental relations will now gradually improve. The success attending the completion of the East India loan, the greater proportion of the £5,000,000 having been immediately subscribed at prices varying from 97 to the extreme point of 102 (the average, however. being 99), plainly exhibited the full abundance of money, and from that date forward, the instalment having in the meantime been paid, the supply available for general purposes has increased. The explanations by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the introduction of the budget, and the manner adopted to provide for the deficiency, have met general approbation, although the imposition of the penny stamp on bankers' cheques has not in some quarters proved popular. As it has, however, passed with scarcely any opposition, the experiment can now be tried, and if not found convenient it may be abandoned. At the commencement of the month there was rather more inquiring for accommodation, and the rates exhibited a tendency to advance. The payment of the instalment upon the East India debentures, besides some requirements in the country, caused a slight demand; withdrawals of gold for export to America also occasioning some influence. The alteration in the rate of exchange has since checked this movement, and little demand now exists. It appears that the rate for the best paper is 2 to 2¼ per cent., and four and six months' bills can be negotiated at 3 and 3½ per cent. Some expectation appears to be entertained that the bank directors may reduce their rate to 2½ per cent., but it is not generally believed.

A fluctuation of about 2 per cent. has taken place in English securities, and the market, after varying to that extent, has recovered to the point from which it declined. The perturbation produced by the unsettled feeling in France, and the doubts expressed in relation to the continuance of the ministry in office, at first created apprehension, but it has since partially subsided, and there seems now to be every confidence in the steady progress of affairs. The financial *exposé* of Mr. Disraeli has evidently afforded great satisfaction; and the result is increased steadiness in the money market. Consols have alternated between 97⅜ and 96¼, and have again returned to 97¼. East India 4 per Cent. Debentures have steadily improved from 97, the reserved price of the East India Compnay, to 100, and the average quotation is now 99⅞ to 100, or 3 per cent. premium. Exchequer bills are not quite so firm, being about 34*s.* premium.

Foreign securities have not varied in a great degree; but the position of business has been rather more favourable. Spanish American securities have exhibited a tendency to improvement, and Turkish have rallied from the previous fall. Few important transactions appear to have taken place, though the public have been buyers of some of the low priced descriptions. In Mexican and Venezuelan an increased amount of business has been notice-

able, the latter being influenced by the expectation that the resignation of managers will lead to a satisfactory settlement of the debt. Russian has been well supported, but Sardinian has declined.

The fluctuations in railway shares this month have not been very extensive, and they only show a range of 2 to 4 per cent. Competition, unfavourable traffic returns, and the absence of speculation have depressed the market, but later in the month there has been a recovery with a more active business. It is expected that with the future progress of the season, and the continued easiness of money, an advance in prices may take place. There has, certainly, been a greater disposition to purchase for the rise during the last few days; and the favourable movement now continues. The latest transactions exhibit confirmed activity in this respect. Joint Stock Bank shares have been steady, with a moderate amount of business. Not much activity can be expected in this department until the approach of the next half-yearly meetings, when estimates will be made of the probable results of dividends. The operators in this description of investment are very cautious persons, and do not hastily enter into transactions. It is impossible to create at any moment a large amount of fluctuation in this department.

The following are the fluctuations in English and Foreign Stocks, and Railway Shares during the month just concluded :—

	Price on Mar. 27.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Apr. 27.
English Funds.				
Consols	97¼-97⅜	97⅞	96½	97¼
Exchequer bills	35*s.* to 38*s.* pm.	40*s.* pm.	33*s.* p.m.	33*s.* to 39*s.* p.m.
Foreign Stocks.				
Brazilian	104¼	104¼	101 ex d.	102½
Buenos Ayres	77½	80	77½	80½
Chilian	104	104	102⅜	103
Dutch, 2½ per cent.	—	66	65¼	66⅜
Mexican	20	20⅛	19⅜	20⅛
Peruvian, 4½ per cent.	83⅛	84	81	82⅛
Russian	110¼	111	109⅜	110¼
Spanish	44	44¼	43½	44¼
Turkish, 6 per cent.	101⅝	101⅞	96⅜ ex. d.	98⅜
Ditto, 4 per cent.	104	104⅜	103¾	104½
Railway Shares.				
Brighton	106	106½	104½	106
Caledonian	86⅞	88	83	84⅜
Eastern Counties	58½	60⅜	57	60⅜
Great Northern	103	103½	101	103
Great Western	58⅜	58¾	55¾	56⅜
Lancashire and Yorkshire... ...	88½	90	87	89⅜
London and North Western ...	94⅞	95⅜	92½	94½
Midland	95⅞	96⅞	90½	93⅜
North Staffordshire	13½	13½	12⅝	13½
South Eastern	69⅜	71	68½	71
South Western	92⅜	95	91½	94½
York, Newcastle, and Berwick ...	91½	93	90	92⅞
York and North Midland	74	75	71½	74⅞
East Indian...	110⅜	111½	109½	110⅜
Northern of France	38½	38½	37½	37⅜

THE GRAIN TRADE.

During the past month, a very fair business has been transacted in all descriptions of cereals, but prices have nevertheless had a downward tendency, though in the early part of the month slightly higher prices were obtained, but it was only temporarily. The supplies both from home growers and from abroad have been more than sufficient to meet the demands, which induced purchasers to offer even lower prices than holders were willing to submit to. The accounts, with respect to the growing crops, continue to be very favourable from all parts of the country.

The *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been:—

Week ending 1858.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
March 27	108,900	... 45 2	... 45 2	... 1 0	... 55 7
April 3	84,952	... 44 3	... 45 1	... 1 0	... 55 5
„ 10	72,171	... 43 1	... 44 9	... 1 0	... 55 2
„ 17	76,791	... 43 2	... 44 5	... 1 0	... 54 9

The importations since the harvest of 1857 have been:—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total Qrs.
Thirty-five weeks ended 17th March ...	2,622,132	2,371,729	4,993,861
Four weeks ended 14th April ...	245,189	199,921	445,110
	2,867,321	2,571,650	5,438,971

And the *weekly averages* have been:—

Thirty-five weeks ended 17th March ...	75,000	67,000	142,000
Four weeks ended 14th April ...	61,000	50,000	111,000
Less	14,000	17,000	31,000

THE STATE OF TRADE.

The state of trade in the manufacturing districts is rather better, and although the operations have not been very extensive, the tendency is decidedly towards improvement. Should affairs assume a more settled condition on the Continent there will be progressive revival, the stimulus of an easy money market being calculated to create activity.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The whole of the arrears is not yet disposed of, some communications and reviews are still standing over. Correspondents and others will please to remember that letters for insertion should, unless of an urgent nature, be forwarded by the 20th of the month. All communications should be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

Mercator (Natal).—We are much pleased with our Correspondent's letter. At all times we shall be ready to answer his inquiries. In the present instance the practice resorted to is the exception and not the rule of the London Bankers. When the capital is fully paid up it is denominated Stock, and dealt in at the rate of £100; the other quotation relates to shares in course of payment.

A Subscriber.—*Tate's Modern Cambist*, published by Effingham Wilson, of the Royal Exchange, is the best work on the subject. Respecting the Funds, *Fortune's Epitome*, published by Letts and Sons, Royal Exchange, is the latest and most reliable authority.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE;

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

JUNE, 1858.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND PROGRESS.

To the mass of persons, who judge of a political measure by the amount of practical benefit or mischief that is likely to result from it, the withdrawal of Mr. Cardwell's motion has given unmitigated satisfaction. Even under the most justifiable circumstances, a dissolution of Parliament is always looked upon as a heavy calamity, when it occurs in the midst of the short period known as the London season; and baffles the hopes of the various trading classes who furnish the luxuries of refined and fashionable life, to which branches of commerce the summer months constitute the only remunerative portion of the year; and a "dull season" is contemplated at the West End with a degree of terror almost comparable to that produced by an approaching panic in the City. Moreover, coming immediately after the crisis of 1857, just when people are expecting to recover from the effects of the general depression, the check ordinarily given to trade by a dissolution would this year be more than ordinarily disastrous. Nor could the thousands who would have suffered personal inconvenience have consoled themselves with the thought that, although they were individually injured, a great principle had proved victorious. They would simply have felt that they were sacrificed for the triumph of a discontented faction, which, unable to hold office itself, is endeavouring to thwart the Government by every means in its power, heedless at what price its successes may be attained.

Again, throughout the tedious debate on the Indian affair, there is not the slightest doubt that the moral sense of the people was on the side of the Government. Whether or not Lord Ellenborough, by the publication of his despatch, had rendered himself guilty of an indiscretion, was a question that involved no broad principle, and all discussion that could arise

on the subject would have been silenced at once by the Earl's resignation of office, had it not been the interest of a faction to prolong the contest. The important circumstance to the English mind was that *in substance* Lord Ellenborough's despatch was right and Lord Canning's proclamation was wrong. The annexation of Oude in 1856, is by no means so universally recognised as a virtuous measure as to justify every act that may be deduced from it as a legitimate consequence; nor is there any weight in the argument that the system of land-holding in Oude is oppressive to the bulk of the people. No doubt many an agricultural labourer in this country would regard the division of soil, as in France, into *petites propriétés* as far more equitable and far more conducive to his peculiar comfort than the existence of the large estates that surround him in every direction. Yet this very man, if he heard of a confiscation of the squire's lands by a foreign power, would be prompt to resent the aggression, nor would he be tempted to lay aside his pitchfork and his scythe by any hints as to the advantage to be derived from some future division of property. Whatever wrongs they may endure, people insist in preferring a bad government under a native ruler to the most enlightened policy, dictated by a foreign invader; and the inhabitants of Oude can hardly have learned within the last two years, to regard us as their true-born sovereigns, armed with a "right divine to govern wrong." The annexation of the country is now a matter of history; but it will be wise not to force it upon the minds of the natives by any excessive exertion of authority that will give the colour of patriotism to the atrocities of rebellion.

Let us hope that the notion of ruling 200,000,000 souls by terror only is now definitively abandoned. Dreadful outrages have been committed in the course of the rebellion, and a heavy retribution has been inflicted. Save in the case of the manifestly guilty, surely the time is now come when a pacific policy may be adopted with respect to our vast Asiatic possessions. The Government has just triumphed in a virtual assertion of the principles of mercy and humanity, and a course of conduct that will prove us to be not the oppressors, but the benefactors of our Indian subjects, will destroy not only the pretext for rebellion, but every cause for discontent. India is not an overcrowded country, in which every resource has been developed to the utmost, but it is rather an unexplored mine, the wealth of which we have not even begun to enjoy. Commerce and banking in India, although their history involves a long series of calamities, must still be considered in their infancy;

indeed, the resources of the country generally are scarcely approachable with such means of intercommunication as at present exist. The invention of railroads, now deemed a necessity in civilised Europe and America, has scarcely affected the mode of travelling in India, but the dawk and its tediousness still occupy the pages of the travellers, leaving one to imagine for the moment that one is reading the description of some wretched land, immersed in the darkness of ignorance, and not of a noble country, attached to the most enlightened kingdom in the world.

India once pacified, what a field for legitimate enterprise is opened to capitalists, weary of the bubbles that have disgraced the commercial world for the last sixty years.

THE LATE BANK MEETINGS.

Amid the devastation caused in the commercial and monetary world by the failures of the autumn, it is pleasing to glance over the records of the annual meetings of those establishments which have prospered amid the general wreck, partly through favourable circumstances, but chiefly through the excellent management of the directors. The National Provincial Bank of England, for instance, showed that during the last ten years —a period which includes the gold discoveries, and the expansion of commerce and manufacture in this country—it had reflected the general prosperity, and that the failures of the local banks assured it had not in the slightest degree diminished the confidence of the public in its security. We may observe, however, that the agricultural districts were least of all affected by the late pressure, and that it is on the agricultural classes that this bank chiefly depends. The directors of the Provincial Bank of Ireland have made a most satisfactory report of the condition of that establishment, which is the more creditable, as during the run for gold in Scotland, there was a corresponding drain in the sister island. Moreover, although a large portion of the funds had been employed in London, this bank had not been in the least degree affected by the crisis. During the pressure upon several of the Irish banks, the Provincial had diminished its circulation, and increased its amount of bullion—an operation which was not indeed without loss, consequent on the sale and repurchase of Government securities, but which bore ample testimony to the prudence of the management. A similar eulogium may be passed upon the National Bank of Ireland, which, placed amid analogous circumstances, has maintained itself in a thriving condition. Inferior

memoranda, if payable to 'selves' only, the word 'bearer' l, are exempt.
nfer tickets of the balances at the clearing-house in the after- mpt.
noranda of payments to West end bankers not using the se are exempt, if the drafts are payable to 'selves' only, and

afts for Custom house payments are not liable to a stamp.
raft payable to bearer, or order, and therefore negotiable, is tamp.
r's clerk represents his employer."

SAVINGS BANKS.

ted, with respect to the duty on drafts, is interesting:—

eference to the stamp duty on drafts bill, just passed by the rds, some anxiety has been expressed by the managers of gs banks in correspondence with this institute as to whether n on their treasurers for the benefit of depositors would be duty. I was, therefore, directed to submit to the Chancellor quer, that as it is a custom in numerous savings banks (for the f fraud) to pay every withdrawing depositor by a cheque upon r of the bank, such cheques ought to be exempted from the mp, and I have now the satisfaction to subjoin, for the infor- ich of your readers as may be interested in the matters, the ly from Mr. Ryan:—

ncellor of the Exchequer desires me to acquaint you that the by the managers of savings banks on their treasurers will not stamp duty, as they come within the provisions of the 44th act 9th George IV., cap. 92."

I am, sir,
EDW. W. BRABROOK,
Corresponding Secretary.

ocieties Institute, 4, Trafalgar-Square.

DIVIDENDS OF FAILED FIRMS.

was issued on the 18th May, by Messrs. Naylor, Vickers and Co., nd Liverpool, whose suspension with large surplus assets took the height of the crisis last November, containing the satis- ancement of their resumption in full. It is understood that only prepared to meet all claims with interest at 5 per cent., discount every acceptance or other liability that may not tured. At the time of the stoppage a balance-sheet was owing property amounting to £590,000, to meet debts for aving a surplus of £225,000, besides private means to the ent of £30,000 or £40,000. But as four-fifths of the assets rica, where the firm had establishments both at New York it was believed that under the best circumstances a long time uired for realisation, and the proposition made, therefore,

to none of these in its healthy and promising aspect, is the Oriental Bank, though, from the nature of its business, it has been exposed to perils from which the other establishments were exempt. Large transactions had been carried on by American houses in China, and other parts with which this bank is connected, but the losses occasioned by the late crisis have proved utterly insignificant, notwithstanding the apprehensions that were felt as the evil day approached. The Indian mutiny naturally occasioned some inconvenience, but nevertheless it did not in any degree diminish the business of the establishment.

It is well that lessons of commercial morality are not taught by terror alone. Here we have a series of banks carrying on business in totally different localities, and some of them placed in positions more than ordinarily critical, yet all of them not merely escaping the effect of a general depreciation of property, but satisfying their shareholders with a handsome dividend, evidently founded on a legitimate basis.

Prudence in the management of business, with care in accumulating a sufficient guarantee fund, is the evident panacea against the evils of a crisis—the storm that scatters the reckless speculators leaving scarcely a trace of its passage upon the establishments of the cautious and circumspect. The run for gold takes place in Ireland as elsewhere, and occasions a forced sale of securities. The failure of the United States merchants is acutely felt in the China trade, and a mutiny shakes to its centre the British government of India. But in the reports made by the directors of the banks above enumerated, these straits and calamities are merely recorded as past dangers, not cited as excuses for present misfortune. Whatever may menace the commercial world, prudence and rectitude of principle are never without their value.

BANKERS' REGULATIONS ON PENNY STAMP DRAFTS.

THE following are the precise regulations affecting the form of drafts under the New Stamp Act issued for the information of the London bankers. It has been considered desirable to present them in this shape, since some of the paragraphs which have appeared in daily contemporaries have been misinterpreted:—

"The act comes into operation on the 25th inst.

"All drafts payable to 'self' only (the word 'bearer' not being in the cheque) and therefore not negotiable, are exempt, unless placed in the hands of a third party.

"Bankers' memoranda, if payable to 'selves' only, the word 'bearer' being omitted, are exempt.

"The transfer tickets of the balances at the clearing-house in the afternoon are exempt.

"The memoranda of payments to West end bankers not using the clearing-house are exempt, if the drafts are payable to 'selves' only, and not to bearer.

"Bank drafts for Custom house payments are not liable to a stamp.

"Every draft payable to bearer, or order, and therefore negotiable, is liable to a stamp.

"A banker's clerk represents his employer."

SAVINGS BANKS.

The annexed, with respect to the duty on drafts, is interesting:—

SIR,—In reference to the stamp duty on drafts bill, just passed by the House of Lords, some anxiety has been expressed by the managers of certain savings banks in correspondence with this institute as to whether drafts drawn on their treasurers for the benefit of depositors would be liable to the duty. I was, therefore, directed to submit to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that as it is a custom in numerous savings banks (for the prevention of fraud) to pay every withdrawing depositor by a cheque upon the treasurer of the bank, such cheques ought to be exempted from the proposed stamp, and I have now the satisfaction to subjoin, for the information of such of your readers as may be interested in the matters, the following reply from Mr. Ryan:—

"The Chancellor of the Exchequer desires me to acquaint you that the drafts drawn by the managers of savings banks on their treasurers will not be liable to stamp duty, as they come within the provisions of the 44th section of the act 9th George IV., cap. 92."

I am, sir,

EDW. W. BRABROOK,
Corresponding Secretary.

Friendly Societies Institute, 4, Trafalgar-Square.

DIVIDENDS OF FAILED FIRMS.

A CIRCULAR was issued on the 18th May, by Messrs. Naylor, Vickers and Co., of Sheffield and Liverpool, whose suspension with large surplus assets took place during the height of the crisis last November, containing the satisfactory announcement of their resumption in full. It is understood that they are not only prepared to meet all claims with interest at 5 per cent., but even to discount every acceptance or other liability that may not yet have matured. At the time of the stoppage a balance-sheet was submitted showing property amounting to £590,000, to meet debts for £365,000, leaving a surplus of £225,000, besides private means to the estimated extent of £30,000 or £40,000. But as four-fifths of the assets were in America, where the firm had establishments both at New York and Boston, it was believed that under the best circumstances a long time would be required for realisation, and the proposition made, therefore,

was to liquidate by four quarterly instalments of 5*s.* each, the first maturing on the 15th of next July. The collections of the house, however, in all parts of the United States, have since exceeded the best expectations, and, according to the general advices lately received, the losses not only of Naylor, Vickers and Co., but of other firms of like repute, will, as compared with what was at one time apprehended, prove insignificant. The speedy restoration of Naylor, Vickers and Co. is the more remarkable, from the fact that the iron and steel trade in this country has as yet experienced but little revival, and under the circumstances it seems almost strange that they should have suspended at all. It must be remembered, however, that for the time the panic was so indiscriminate, especially in the case of all houses connected with America, that if the firm could have shown a probable surplus of two or three millions instead of £200,000 or 300,000, any attempt to obtain advances might have been equally futile. There are occasions on which it is a duty on the part of mercantile establishments, to the community as much as to themselves, to abstain from wild efforts, which can only add to the general confusion, and this was obviously a case of the kind. Several of the Swedish houses who stopped at the same period—particularly Sewells and Neck, Rew, Prescott and Co., and Albert Pelly and Co., furnished similar examples — and the circumstances attending their suspension and subsequent restoration are among the things that can honourably be dwelt upon, and that tend to redeem the features of the convulsion amidst which they occurred.

A first dividend of 2*s.* in the pound has been declared under the estate of Messrs. Bischoff, Beer and Co., who failed in November with liabilities amounting to £34,714, and assets representing £14,408. The following is the circular issued to the creditors:—

"48, Lime-street, E.C., London, April 26.

"Sir,—I have the pleasure to inform you that the first instalment of 2*s.* in the pound, payable by Messrs. Bischoff, Beer and Co., under their deed of composition, is now due, and that the same may be received to-morrow, or any subsequent day, at their offices, No. 12, Bucklersbury, between the hours of eleven and three, upon the production of the enclosed receipt, duly signed. It will be necessary that all bills or negotiable securities should be produced when the instalment is applied for. Should it prove inconvenient for you to attend personally to obtain payment, you can fill up and sign the authority at the foot, to enable any one to receive the money on your behalf.

"I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

"J. Wilson Nicholson."

A first dividend of 5*s.* in the pound has been paid under the estate of Messrs. Sanderson and Co., the bill brokers, who suspended during the crisis.

An arrangement, it is understood, has been made by which the firm of Messrs. Mendes Da Costa and Co., engaged in the West India trade, who failed during the panic in December last, will pay their creditors 7*s.* in the pound, and eventually resume operations. At the meeting it was agreed that the estate should be wound up by inspection, with liberty to the debtors to make an offer if they could secure assistance. This has been accomplished, and the amount stated is the result arrived at. The whole of the composition will be paid forthwith.

In the *Gazette* of April 30th, there was officially announced a second dividend of 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, under the estate of Messrs. Smith, Hilder, Scrivens and Smith, of Hastings, bankers. Under the separate estate of

Mr. J. Hilder, a dividend of 20*s.* in the pound has been declared; and under that of Mr. F. Smith, a dividend of 5*s.* in the pound.

LIMITED LIABILITY IN BANKING.

(From the *Economist.*)

THE bill for extending the principle of limited liability to the trade of banking has been read a second time in the House of Commons, without even a division. It may, therefore, be considered practically to have been adopted by the legislature, and that it awaits only the formal remaining stages in order to become the law of the land. Thus one more untenable and exceptional restriction will be removed from our statute-book. The main reason why this measure has met with all but unanimous support upon the present occasion, while it has upon all former occasions been rejected by large majorities, is, that Mr. Headlam has wisely recognised now, for the first time, the essential difference which exists between the position of the involuntary creditor of a bank in the person of a note-holder, and the voluntary creditor in the person of a depositor. The absence of such a distinction in his former bills, it may be remembered, was the only ground upon which Sir George C. Lewis and the late government objected to the measure. That such a distinction between the two classes of the creditors of a bank is a real and not an imaginary one, is now commonly admitted. That the note-holder, as a general rule, notwithstanding his right to demand payment at any moment he pleases, is practically an involuntary creditor of a bank, is too obvious to require much argument. In the first place, the notes of a bank circulate through a district less or more extensive, and immediate convertibility is practically impossible; and even in the very place where the bank is situated, a certain number of notes must necessarily be passing from hand to hand at any moment when a bank may chance to stop payment. To suppose otherwise, would be inconsistent with their use as a circulating medium. On the other hand, the depositing of money in a bank is a deliberate and voluntary act; and the more so as in many cases it involves a bargaining as to the rate of interest to be allowed upon it, and as to the conditions of its withdrawal. Again, in the case of the note-holder, he derives no profit from the relation in which he is placed to the bank as a creditor; while in the case of the depositor, the terms of his bargain generally entitle him to receive from the banker the largest share of the profit derived from the use of his money. The London joint-stock banks allow within one per cent. of the rate they obtain upon good securities, and are thus placed in the relation of agents to their customers for the profitable employment of their spare money. If the banker makes 5 per cent., he allows 4 per cent. to the customer, and retains 1 per cent. for his skill, trouble, expense of safe custody, and risk attending the investment. Surely, then, it will not be pretended any longer that these two classes of creditors stand in anything like the same relation to the banker.

But, then, the condition which Mr. Headlam has thus been compelled to introduce into his bill, in order to afford to note holders the largest security, has landed him in another difficulty of a practical character, which must go far to defeat its objects unless some means can be discovered of correcting this objection. The bill, as it stands, exempts from its operation all banks of issue, except under the serious penalty of relinquishing the right to circulate notes. Now, considering that the Acts of 1844 and 1845 have given to the then existing banks (and the number of banks has not been increased since that time) a monopoly of the profitable privilege of issuing notes, the advantages conferred by the Act must either be purchased at a cost far beyond their value, or remain a dead letter, except as regards the joint-stock banks in London, Manchester, and Liverpool, and a few here and there scattered through the country, that may have relinquished their issues under contract with the Bank of England. In Scotland and in Ireland there is not a single bank that would for these reasons be likely to avail itself of the privileges offered by Mr. Headlam's bill. It may, indeed, be said that the bill will at least be applicable to new banks to be formed, inasmuch as no new bank according to the present law can issue notes. No doubt this is so. But the experience of fourteen years has shown that there is but little probability of new banks, without the right of issue, being started in opposition to existing banks having that right. There is, however, one way, and only one, in which this difficulty may be counteracted. The bill will, we hope, be yet so amended before it becomes law as to permit existing banks of issue to adopt its provisions, on the condition that they deposit with the Government public securities to cover the amount of their authorised issue of notes. By this means the difficulty would be entirely met; the involuntary creditors of the bank would be amply protected, and the circulating medium would be placed upon a footing which would secure it against the results of panic, and of consequent runs. Nor should such a condition be considered as onerous to the banks themselves, inasmuch as they would receive the dividends upon the stock so deposited, while the capital invested in its purchase would be replaced for the purposes of trade by the notes forming their circulation.

So much as to the precise state in which the measure now stands. As to the arguments upon which it has been supported or opposed, they have been rested upon two classes of considerations not necessarily dependent upon each other. These have been, first, the consideration whether the system of limited or unlimited liability is the best for the conduct of joint-stock banks, and for the interests of the public, as well those whose capital is embarked in the trade as those who are customers of the banks; and, second, the consideration whether it is wise or not to restrict by law persons from trading upon either principle in respect to banking, while the option is extended freely to all other trades. Whatever difference of opinion there may be upon the first of these points, there can be but little in respect to the second, if we are to carry out those principles of free competition, self-reliance, and indivi-

dual responsibility which have characterised the commercial legislation of this country of late years. Experience has abundantly proved that the legislature is the very worst judge as to the mode in which the relations of traders to each other should be conducted; and nothing is more striking than the blunders which have been made, and the disappointments which have ensued, from attempts to regulate those relations. As a general rule, it would not be too much to say that the results of such attempts have proved the reverse of those which had been intended and expected. In such matters, the only sound course is now admitted to be that which leaves men unfettered to discover for themselves the best mode of conducting their affairs, taking care only to provide that whatever obligations they enter into voluntarily may be rigidly enforced.

Upon the other point there may be room for much more difference of opinion. On the one hand, no doubt unbounded credit is in one respect favourable for all the objects of banking. The great benefit conferred upon the community by banks is, that they collect into aggregate sums, available for trading purposes, the small and scattered amounts of money, which would otherwise, for the time being, lie idle, and thus in point of fact add greatly to the effective and available capital of the country; and in the extended form which they have assumed of late years, that they both offer a ready investment at a fair interest for lenders, and furnish a large fund for the use of borrowers upon good security. Now, no doubt these objects would appear to be best attained by the largest security in the shape of personal liability which can be offered. On the other hand, however, it has been found by experience that the unlimited credit which unlimited liability has given is not favourable to good management, nor, in the long run, to the interests of any of the parties concerned. What has proved in all the cases of failure of joint-stock banks to have been the invariable vice which has eaten into the core? A system of extensive and renewed credits granted to a few undeserving persons to extravagant amounts. What is the history of each of those accounts when closely investigated? A series of transactions, perhaps small at first, rapidly swelling in amount by renewal after renewal, by advance after advance, in none of which could the bank at last exercise any option, partly because they dare not stop advances and allow the houses to stop; partly because they themselves could not do without the bills which such houses created to replace others. But in what way did such transactions begin, and in what way did they enlarge? Entirely by the system of re-discounting in the London market. And how were they then able to re-discount paper to any amount, no matter what its quality? In consequence only of the known unlimited liability of the whole body of shareholders. It has been ascertained that at one time one of the banks which has recently failed had bills re-discounted in London to the amount of upwards of *five millions*, which had been taken in masses without regard to quality, reliance being blindly placed on the known liability of a large, respectable, and wealthy body of shareholders.

In the case of that bank, it has transpired that no instance ever occurred of a bill that was offered for re-discount being refused except one, and that under special and exceptional circumstances, on the eve of its failure. But this blind credit not only leads to careless and bad management, but also furnishes the means of rash and extravagant advances. Now, in the case of limited liability, the credit of a bank would be determined by its capital and its known management alone. Bills, if offered for re-discount, would be examined and dealt with upon their individual and respective merits. A check would be given to renewals of bad bills and to advances to dangerous persons; and the attention of managers and directors would be turned exclusively to a prudent conduct of their affairs. No doubt, as a rule, it would be needful in such a case that banks should have larger paid-up, and still larger subscribed, capitals than at present, and the dividends, though the profits might be equal, would consequently not be so large. But those consequences, in place of being a disadvantage, would probably rather be the reverse.

Again, if we submit the merits of the two plans to the test of experience, we think it will be found that, as a rule, banks with limited liability have been less subject to failure than banks with unlimited liability. Among all the chartered banks at home which were formed upon the principle of limited liability, we are not aware at the moment of one that has failed; and in the case of the colonial banks, which during the last 30 years have been all formed upon that principle, with perhaps one exception of which we are not quite certain, no failure has taken place, although the nature of the business is necessarily more hazardous. How far the banks at home generally will be able to avail themselves of the system, it is difficult to say, but it is more probable than some seem to expect, that they will do so, provided the change is accompanied with the additional security to the public which would be afforded by the deposit of public stock to represent the note circulation. But, however that may be, we are at least glad to see another restriction on the free action of the trader removed from our law.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF BANKRUPTCY.

[On this important topic a series of articles have appeared in a daily contemporary, from a very able pen, and it is proposed to reproduce them in regular order here.]

Our old friends Jones, Brown, and Robinson, have appeared before the public in so many ludicrous and fantastic dresses, that we shall offer no apology for presenting them in a character neither new nor strikingly original, but which they have not hitherto assumed. They all three embark in trade, and towards all three the blind goddess, Fortune, behaves most shabbily. Jones is a shawl warehouseman in London, who is taken aback by a sudden change of fashion. Brown purchases a cotton mill in the neighbourhood of Manchester, and involves himself

in irretrievable difficulties, by defending a patent which he has obtained for new machinery, already invented by somebody else. Robinson is an East India merchant in a large way of business, who is ruined by the abrupt termination of hostilities with Russia, and the consequent decline in the price of hemp. Now it so happens that Jones, a merry, good-natured fellow, has endeared himself to all with whom he has come into contact. He does not want to figure his name in the *Gazette*, and his creditors are quite willing to accept a composition of ten shillings in the pound. Thus much he can easily afford, if the sale of his property is not forced on too hastily, as it might be were he made bankrupt. To render the arrangement complete and legally binding upon all the creditors, it is necessary that six-sevenths of them in number and value, whose debts respectively amount to £10 and upwards, should express their consent by signing a deed or memorandum to that effect. But it has been determined by the Court of Exchequer Chamber that such a deed will not prejudice the rights of any creditor who has not executed it, unless it provides for the distribution of the whole of the trader's estate, without allowing him to retain or to receive for himself one single farthing. It would be harsh to reduce Jones to beggary. His jovial, sprightly temper merits better usage. He can, at all events, pay a decent dividend, and his creditors desire to leave him a round margin out of his effects, wherewith to start afresh in the career of life. One or two amongst them are swayed by more sordid impulses; for if brick and mortar could speak, that same repository in Oxford-street would testify to some very queer and ticklish dealings. Jones's brothers and cousins thrive wonderfully, though he is insolvent. His acquaintances have battened upon his careless, unthrifty disposition, and extracted securities by means—which, for the sake of euphony, we will call equivocal—and a celebrated speculator in textile fabrics has so mixed himself up with the business as to dread lest he should have incurred a partnership liability. Exposure might lead to unpleasant consequences. The kindly feeling towards Jones must be encouraged, but inspectors must be chosen just to overlook the collection and division of the assets. Nothing can be fairer. With an admirable unselfishness, the parties principally implicated, active as scamps usually are, volunteer their time and services, which are greedily snapped at. Then begins a cheerful scene of rascality and imposition; a scene for a Terence to gloat over, and for a Dickens to describe. How dexterous the manipulation of accounts! How skilful the misappropriation of moneys! How ungrudging the payments to the inspectors and their associates for claims which a judicial touchstone would shiver to atoms! What matter? The burden of responsibility rests upon the capacious shoulders of the good man Jones. But pause awhile, you who delight to fleece the ignorant and the credulous. Have you not been reckoning without your host? That peevish, meddlesome creditor, who frets so sorely at his exclusion from the inspectorship, whom you barely coaxed and wheedled into acquiescence when his brethren rushed headlong into the trap, gets an inkling of your depredations. Forthwith he

refuses to release Mr. Jones from his debt; he excites a furious uproar; he brings his action at law, and throws everything into a perplexity and confusion, from which there is no loophole of escape but through the Bankruptcy Court. There we are fearful that the warehouseman's amiable qualities will not save him, any more than the sacrifice of your valuable leisure will save you, from the severe animadversions of a cold-hearted judge.

The tale we have told is not an idle fiction. We are well aware that the case supposed is exceptional; but so, we trust, is all crime; and the exceptional cases are precisely those against which we must guard. With that reflection, which often slips too quickly from the memory, we pass on to the second personage in our drama, the ingenious but unlucky Brown. Unfortunately for him, he is descended from an old and a proud stock. His relatives occupy a distinguished position in society, and shudder at the ignominy with which the rashness of one member threatens to overwhelm the whole tribe of Browns. He himself would have been inclined to petition for an arrangement under control; but in their eyes the hardest terms are preferable to an application to the Court in any shape whatever. This squares exactly with the wishes of the creditors, who are strict, stern, money-getting men, and argue thus—"Brown has wealthy friends, whose well-lined purses may be pinched and squeezed without much injury to themselves, but with great advantage to us. Brown is not devoid either of shrewdness or perseverance; and if we set him afloat again, he will soon recover his former customers, and earn enough to reimburse the greater portion of our losses. True, he will recommence under false pretences, under the guise of solvency and freedom, when his future exertions are already mortgaged, his energies crippled and paralysed. Still he may succeed; at any rate he will contrive to struggle on for a few years; and if he will brave the attempt, why during that time should not we take all we can, and leave the rest to Providence?" This reasoning convinces the majority, who concur in a plan of arrangement. But the conditions laid upon Brown are so oppressive that, pending the negotiations, he has bribed some of the most influential creditors, and seduced others by promises, to become the advocates of leniency and forbearance. Thus the requisite six-sevenths can scarcely be brought to sign the deed, to which Brown reluctantly yields his consent. No sooner is it signed, however, then fresh obstacles arise. The holders of Brown's bills must each have notice of his suspension, and of the agreement into which he has entered; but how is Brown to know into whose hands the bills have fallen? Again, three months must elapse before any dissentient to whom notice has been duly given is bound by the deed; and during that interval, by threatening to use the assignment itself as an act of bankruptcy, he may extort payment of his whole demand. These embarrassments surmounted, it is discovered that one of Brown's largest debtors had been buying up his bills at the rate of dividend which the estate is expected to realise, and means to set them off against the sum which he owes. The mass of creditors

are vastly disgusted; but before the winding-up is finished, they learn to regret more bitterly still the results of their short-sighted manœuvre. Even the expenses they find heavy, for they cannot submit disputed claims to the arbitration of the Commissioner. Over accommodation billholders they can exercise no coercion, fraudulent preferences they cannot investigate, nor can they compel all parties to verify their debts. It is too late now to complain of the past, but they resolve utterly to repudiate the whole system for the future.

Robinson, the East India merchant, is one of those men, who, no matter from what height they fall, invariably alight upon their legs. The news of the peace has scarcely arrived, ere he has made up his mind what course to pursue. He has a proposal for arrangement cut and dried, which he presents in a petition to the Court. In fact, he adopts the method which was invented in 1849, in order to obviate the inconveniences of publicity to the creditors, and at the same time to preserve some degree of judicial control both over the conduct of the trader and the administration of his estate. He does not resort to this course, as many do, with the view of defeating an execution that is about to issue against him, or of obtaining protection for a month or so, during which period he can deal pretty much as he pleases with his property, and then procuring the dismissal of his petition. No; he is too wide awake to be dishonest, and so much respected that his premises are secure from the intrusion of the most adventurous tipstaff. But he has his own purpose to serve, nevertheless. In his proposal he has consulted his own interest before the interest of his creditors, and who can blame him? The judge will not, for Robinson has acted most honourably, not having continued to swim a moment after he was convinced that he must sink. As for the creditors, he need only obtain the sanction of three-fifths of those who may be present at two successive sittings, and he has taken all proper precautions to pack the assembly with a strong body of his friends. He has, indeed, a difficulty to encounter. Like Brown, he must serve a multitude of personal notices upon he knows not whom; but saving that, his affairs progress swimmingly, and without much opposition. Still there are some grumblers. The proofs of debts cannot be examined; and a faint suspicion has gone abroad that the balance-sheet and account of his creditors which Robinson has filed is not strictly accurate. He, meanwhile is not altogether contented. He has just been informed that he cannot, as he had hoped, be absolved from his liability to the covenants in a troublesome lease, which had pestered him for years.

In the histories of Jones, Brown, and Robinson, we have endeavoured to illustrate the principal objections that may be urged against the three existing methods of private arrangement between insolvent traders and their creditors. We have relied partly upon facts that have come to our knowledge, but mainly upon evidence adduced before the committees of the Lords and Commons, and before the Bankruptcy Commission which sat in 1854; and we beg to add that we have in no wise exaggerated. The same sources of information that have enabled us to get

our old friends into a scrape will enable us also to furnish suggestions as a warning and a relief to their fellow tradesmen in similar circumstances.

STATISTICS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE following statistical abstract is compiled from a paper just presented to Parliament, and has reference to the year 1857. The net revenue was £66,056,055, and the expenditure £66,019,958. The total interest and cost of managing the debt, funded and not funded, was £28,683,384; the civil list and civil charges of all kinds amounted to £9,839,325, and the army and navy cost £25,497,249. Taxes to the amount of £10,753,582 were remitted, of which £9,125,000 was due to the reduction of the income tax, and £1,054,637 to the reduction of the tea duties. The gross amount of the capital of the national debt was £805,282,699, of which £779,655,399 is funded and £25,627,300 unfunded. In 1843 the debt was only £790,576,392, and in 1853 it was as low as £771,335,801. The total value of the imports was £187,646,335. 3,437,957 quarters of wheat, and 5,107,225 quarters of other grain were imported, against 4,072,833 quarters of wheat in 1856, 2,667,702 in 1855, 3,431,227 in 1854, 4,915,430 in 1853, 3,060,268 in 1852, 3,812,008 in 1851, 3,738,995 in 1850, 3,845,378 in 1849, 2,580,959 in 1848, 2,656,455 in 1847, and 1,432,591 quarters in 1846, the last being the year when Sir R. Peel finally repealed the Corn Laws. Prussia is the largest exporter of wheat to England, and next Russia and the United States. 969,318,896 lb. of raw cotton were imported (654,758,048 from America), and 129,749,898 lb. of sheep, lamb and alpaca wool. The value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufacture was £122,155,237, and that of the principal and other articles of foreign and colonial goods exported £23,353,765. £15,061,500 of gold bullion and specie were exported (£10,863,818 to France alone), and £18,505,468 of silver bullion and specie. 13,694,107 tons of British and 9,484,685 tons of foreign shipping entered and cleared at ports in the United Kingdom, making together 23,178,792 tons; and 19,071,379 tons of shipping entered and cleared with cargoes only. 1,050 sailing ships of 197,554 tons, and 228 steamers of 52,918 tons were built and registered in the United Kingdom. 18,429 sailing vessels of 3,830,119 tons, and employing 151,434 men, were employed in the home and foreign trades of the kingdom, besides 899 steamers of 381,363 tons, employing 24,953 men, making a grand total of 19,328 vessels of 4,211,482 tons, employing 176,387 men. There were retained for home consumption, and charged with excise duty accordingly, 46,267,457 lb. of hops, 40,298,513 bushels of malt, 175,690,557 lb. of paper, and 24,150,436 gallons of spirits. The average price of wheat in the year was 56*s.* 4*d.* per quarter; barley, 42*s.* 1*d.*; and oats, 25*s.* In 1856, wheat ruled at 69*s.* 2*d.*; in 1855, at 74*s.* 8*d.*; and 1854, at 72*s.* 5*d.* In 1851 it was as low as 38*s.* 6*d.*, and in 1852 at 40*s.* 9*d.* There were sold in the market towns of England and Wales 5,243,940 quarters of wheat, 2,262,733 quarters of barley, and 537,364 quarters of oats, £5,239,810 were coined at the Mint. The receipts of the trustees of Savings Banks were £7,581,451, and the payments £8,375,095; the capital was £35,108,596. In England (population 19,304,000) there were 662,864 births, 420,019 deaths, and 160,500 marriages. In Scotland (population 3,064,556) there were 103,632 births, 61,927 deaths, and 21,313 marriages.

At the end of the year there were 908,186 paupers in receipt of parish relief in England and Wales, a larger number than has occurred since 1850 and 1849. The Scottish paupers mustered 69,217 in number, and the Irish 50,582. Pauperism in Ireland has diminished most extraordinarily, as there were 620,747 at the commencement of 1849, since when the number has gradually declined. 212,875 persons emigrated—21,001 to the North American colonies, 126,905 to the United States, and 61,248 to Australia and New Zealand.

THE JOINT-STOCK BANKING COMPANIES BILL.

In the House of Commons on the 14th May, the second reading of the Joint-Stock Banking Companies Bill having been moved by Mr. Headlam,

Mr. Black moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months. He did not object to the principle of limited liability generally. Commercial companies, on the principle of limited liability, traded upon their own capital; but a bank, if it were allowed to be conducted upon limited liability, would trade upon the capital of other people. If the banks of Scotland had been upon the limited liability principle, they would all have been swamped during the late panic. Unlimited liability was their sheet anchor, and that enabled them to weather the storm. He moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

Mr. Finlay seconded the motion, and contended that limited liability, as applied to banks, would be a most dangerous principle.

Mr. Drummond considered that there were extraordinary deceptions in the bill, and that it was a false principle to lay down that a higher rate of interest could be obtained with ample security.

Sir R. W. Carden thought that the bill would inflict a great injustice upon all persons who advanced their money in banking operations. Under this bill the old banks would have just five times the advantage over those established under Sir Robert Peel's Act. At the same time, he thought the capital of the banks should be as far as possible equalised.

Sir W. Dunbar considered that limited liability having been affirmed as a principle by that house, banking should form no exception. The object of the member for Newcastle in this motion was to remove the impediments that now existed to the establishment of co-partnerships, to which banking at present formed the only exception. It had been said that limited responsibility would check wild speculation and fraud, but every member of that house would bear painful testimony to the fact that unlimited liability counted its victims by thousands, many of them females, while a system of limited liability, he believed, would be productive of great advantage. In banking operations he believed this would strictly apply, as an ordinary failure would be productive of comparatively little disadvantage, because there would be a regular audit of accounts, and altogether a better system of management. Unlimited liability, he held, diverted capital from its legitimate source, and induced speculative persons to invest it in doubtful and dangerous enterprises. (Hear, hear.) He thought the whole difficulty arising out of this question might be met by compelling banks to lodge securities for the issue of notes, and to hold gold for the balance. In the Isle of Man the issues were protected by mortgages on land, and he saw no reason why

that principle might not be applied to England. He did not think there was any necessity for this special legislation, and he did not think that the house should be called upon to give experience to the rash, wisdom to the innocent, or honesty to the unprincipled. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Bovill considered the bill was nothing more nor less than an attempt to protect directors and managers of banks at the expense of the public interests. (Hear, hear.) It would, he believed, lead to the utmost recklessness of expenditure. If there was one thing more than another to be looked for in joint-stock banks, it was that there should be security to customers, but that would be destroyed by this bill. A great object in banks was to secure good management, and it would be for the house to consider whether that could be best obtained by having persons at their head who were entirely responsible, or persons who had little or no interest in the success or failure of the concern. The general tendency of the house had been against extending the principle of limited liability, and it was well known that whenever concerns failed under this act the creditors had been more than usually sufferers. If the objection to the present banks was that they accumulated too much capital, let there be a restriction imposed upon their power of borrowing money. The principle of limited liability would, he contended, in no way check reckless trading, and he quoted from financial authorities to show that no commercial security would be derived from limited responsibility. The case of banks was widely different from that of ordinary private commercial speculations, for wholesale ruin followed upon the failure of a bank; but the loss in the latter speculation was confined to the persons directly managing them. He believed this bill originated in the misfortunes of those who had been directors and shareholders in unsuccessful banks. Now, he insisted that the loss accruing from such speculations ought to fall upon the directors and shareholders, not upon the depositors and the public; for the directors and shareholders had the full benefit of the profits of all such concerns. Nor had the depositors the slightest voice in naming the direction of these concerns. The accounts of banks were kept from the view of the public, and it was impossible for them to be cognisant of their affairs. No case of necessity had been made out for such a measure. The only hypothesis on which the bill, as at present explained, could be urged was that it was desired to relieve directors and shareholders of that responsibility which would attach to them. (Hear.)

Mr. Gurney admitted that the principle of limited liability must ultimately be extended to banks, if it were preserved for commercial speculations generally; but he opposed the bill on the ground that the experiment of limited liability was yet on its trial, and its success not yet proved. (Hear, hear.) Should a favourable result follow the experiment, he should be ready, at some future period, to support the extension of the principle to banks. (Hear.)

Sir C. Lewis said that the legislature had already affirmed that trading associations might limit the amount of their liability; and the question now was, whether a case could be made out for excepting banks. (Hear, hear.) There was a difference between a mere bank of deposit and a bank for general purposes, where deposits bore interest, and the question arose whether there was any reason why banks of deposit merely should be made an exception from the rule. But, practically, most joint-stock banks allowed interest for the money deposited, and there was therefore no difference between banks of deposit and other trading associations, so far as regarded the principle of limited liability. He should therefore vote for the second reading of the bill, the operation of which was to be par-

missive. The right hon. gentleman entered into a defence of the principle of limited liability, as giving the shareholders in joint-stock banks a greater control over their affairs; but he admitted that depositors who imposed implicit confidence in the directors entered into a voluntary contract, and ought to bear, without repining, their own proportion of any loss which might occur. (Hear.)

Mr. Malins contended that as free trade had been made to apply to trading associations generally, joint-stock banks ought not to be made an exception. He cordially supported the second reading of the bill.

Mr. Baxter was altogether opposed to legislative interference as to the manner in which capital should be invested. (Hear, hear.) The present bill was permissive in its character, and he should therefore give it his support. He believed that of late years public confidence had been much shaken in banks conducted on the principle of unlimited liability (hear, hear), and that a decided reaction had set in in favour of the new system. Without denying that the banks on the old principle had been advantageous, many cases could be cited in which the unlimited responsibility of shareholders had led to considerable mischief.

Mr. Sheridan would remind the house that it was not the principle of limited liability, but rather of unlimited liability, which was on its trial. The Bank of England was conducted on the principle of limited liability, and yet it was pretty generally acknowledged that the Bank was a prosperous institution. In our various colonies the principle had been tried, and had been found to work most successfully. He gave his most cordial assent to the second reading of the bill.

Mr. Spooner intended to vote for the second reading of the bill. (Hear, hear.) He had, undoubtedly, continuously opposed the adoption of the principle of limited liability, but as the principle had now been recognised in practice, he could not see why one particular sort of trading companies should be exempted from its application. (Hear.)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer also declared his intention of supporting the bill, as it appeared to him to be calculated to terminate a restriction. (Hear, hear.) He would not enter into the question of the merits of the principle of limited liability, as that question was not before them; the only point which they had now to consider was whether the operation of the present law restricted the business of banking. It was indeed matter for grave doubt whether the extension of the principle of limited liability to banking would be very much availed of. For himself he could not help thinking that banks conducted upon such a principle, when they came to be placed in competition with those acting upon the principle of unlimited liability, would not be able to hold their ground. He thought the end must be that the public would show a preference for banks founded upon the principle of unlimited liability. But if that were so it was quite certain no great danger would result to the public from the removal of the present restriction. On the other hand, perhaps, with the recent flagrant abuses of the present system staring them in the face, the public might be induced, should this bill pass, to exercise a greater caution than they had hitherto done. In either alternative, therefore, the passing of the bill would be of advantage. There was, however, an objection to the bill—namely, that it was to have a retrospective effect. Now he did not think that banks founded upon the principle of unlimited liability should be allowed all of a sudden the power of lessening the security which they had offered to their creditors. It might be said there were some who would prefer the security of a bank conducted upon the principle of limited liability; that might be so; however, he did not think there was much chance of such a

preference being shown. He was strongly disposed to think, therefore, the change contemplated by the bill would operate unjustly towards the creditors of banks founded upon the unlimited liability principle. At the same time that objection, if valid, was one which could be best removed in committee. (Hear, hear.) It might be perfectly true that they had not sufficient data before them to guide to the formation of recent conclusions with reference to the working of the principle of limited liability, perhaps even they might ultimately have to retrace their steps. But, granting all that, that really was no objection why they should not apply the principle at present in operation to banking. He, therefore, intended to support the motion for the second reading of the bill. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Headlam having made a few observations in reply, in which he contrasted his position on that occasion, when every one seemed ready to support his proposal, with the small countenance offered to him in previous sessions when advocating a similar policy.

The bill was ordered to be read a second time, amidst cheers.

THE UNITY JOINT-STOCK BANK.

It will be perceived by the subjoined circular from the manager of the Unity Joint-Stock Bank, that Mr. G. Chambers, the late manager, has retracted his allegations contained in his circular of February last, reflecting on the character and conduct of the directors, &c. On this ground, it is supposed the action brought against the late manager for the recovery of £500 paid him on his retirement has been compromised, and the dispute between him and the directors settled :—

"Sir,—You have herewith a copy of the letter of apology addressed to the directors by Mr. Chambers, in full retractation of the allegations contained in his circular of February last. They have accepted this document as satisfactory. The directors take this opportunity of congratulating the shareholders on the readiness with which the call has been already met, and of reminding them that Tuesday next the 18th instant, is the day on which it becomes due, when they believe that notwithstanding a specious pamphlet addressed to the shareholders of the bank, which you may have lately received, it will be fully responded to. You may rely upon it, that the best interests of the shareholders were consulted in making the call, and that since it has been made, during the months of March and April last, the business of the bank has considerably and steadily improved.

I beg to remain, &c.,

JOSEPH W. TERRY,

General Manager.

Unity Joint-Stock Bank, Chief Office, 10, Cannon-street, London, E.C., May 11th, 1858."

Annexed is Mr. Chambers' circular :—

11, George Yard, Lombard Street, 8th May, 1858.

Gentlemen,—I regret having addressed from No. 11, George Yard, Lombard Street, in the month of February last, to the shareholders of the Unity Bank, a printed circular containing matter affecting the character and conduct of the directors, and statements impugning the last report, the correctness of the balance-sheet, and the management of the bank, which I now admit was written under an erroneous impression, and which, on reflection, I consider I ought not to have written and circulated. I now ask your permission to withdraw it, and to apologise for having written

and circulated it. I hope that this apology will put an end to the proceedings in the action you have brought against me under the deed of covenant, dated 19th August last.

I enclose you a cheque for the six guineas claimed under one of the counts of the declaration. The costs of the action I will pay on their being sent to me; and I undertake that the discontinuing this action shall not prejudice your rights, or my liability, under my deed of covenant.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

(Signed) GEORGE CHAMBERS.

To the directors of the Unity Bank.

THE WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND.

IN the House of Commons, on the 5th May, Mr. Brady asked if the directors of the Western Bank of Scotland forfeited (in a legal sense) the right they possessed to circulate bank-notes by the failure of the bank? If so, was it the intention of the government to institute an inquiry into the circumstances connected with the failure, with the view of granting (for the benefit of the shareholders) a power to the said directors to sell the privileges they possessed.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said the Lord Advocate had called his attention to the question of the hon. gentleman, and he begged to inform him that the directors of the Western Bank of Scotland had forfeited the right to circulate bank-notes. With regard to the second question, he had to state that it was not the intention of the government to grant in any way, if they should have the power, the sale of that privilege.

THE STAMP DUTY ON DRAFTS BILL.

IN the House of Commons, on the 3rd of May, on Mr .Hamilton moving the second reading of this bill,

Mr. T. Baring reminded the house that he had presented a petition against the measure from a body of men of great respectability—the members of the Stock Exchange—but being unwilling to disturb the financial arrangement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the year, he was not inclined to take a strong part against it. He must say, however, that he shared in the doubts that had been expressed respecting the soundness of the principle on which the measure was founded.

Mr. Greaves observed that the passing of the measure would place impediments in the way of carrying on trade, and increase the demand for bank-notes.

Mr. Baxter thought the proposed tax was as little liable to objection as any tax that could be imposed upon the community. He suggested to the government the propriety of acceding to the proposal of charging only a halfpenny on cheques below £5.

Mr. Turner thought the measure would tend to the use of coin and notes, instead of cheques for small sums.

Sir G. Pechell, Mr. W. Williams, Mr. J. Ewart, Col. Sykes, and Mr. Dent having made a few remarks,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer defended the bill. The gentlemen of the Stock Exchange were remarkable for their ingenuity; and how did

they stand, according to their own argument, in respect to this bill? They said it would be unjust, and that they could evade it; but if they could evade it, where was the injustice of it. If it would be inconvenient to evade it, and more convenient to use cheques, was it unjust to ask them to pay one penny for their own convenience, it being a tax upon convenience, and not upon luxuries. (Hear, hear.)

The bill was then read a second time. It has since passed through its various stages, both in the House of Lords and Commons.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to Thursday, May 13:—

DEBTOR.	F.	C.
Capital of the Bank	91,250,000	0
Ditto, New	91,250,000	0
Profits in addition to capital (Art. 8, Law of June 9, 1857)	1,435,505	74
Reserve of the Bank	12,980,759	14
New reserve	9,125,000	0
Ditto in landed property...	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	554,122,300	0
Ditto of the branch banks	88,351,225	0
Bank notes to order	4,489,696	0
Receipts payable at sight	3,924,641	0
Treasury account-current, creditor	96,203,835	89
Sundry accounts-current...	136,034,425	0
Do. with the branch banks	80,302,102	0
Dividends payable	451,818	25
Discounts and sundry interests	2,620,276	59
Commission on deposits ...	9,674,187	26
Re-discounted during the last-six months	2,209,982	52
Sundries	3,238,478	40
F.	1,091,664,223	29

CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand	200,002,542	45
Cash in the branch banks	242,631.409	0
Commercial bills overdue	573,317	7
Do. discounted, but not due	177,355,788	83
Ditto in the branch banks	202,456,008	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	1,344,200	0
Do. by the branch banks	1,709,000	0
Do. on French public securities	26,210,900	0
Do. by the branch banks	9,703,200	0
Do. on railway securities	61,056,792	21
Do. by the branch banks	17,481,080	0
Do. on Crédit Foncier scrip	354,600	0
Do. on branch banks scrip	123,400	0
Do. to the State on agreement of June 30, 1848...	50,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	12,980,750	14
Ditto disposable	52,188,103	58
New shares, not settled ..	18,572,200	0
Hotel & furniture of the Bk.	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	5,935,573	0
Expenses of the Bank.....	1,463,685	21
Sundries.....	5,721,673	80
F.	1,009,664,223	29

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, DE GERMINY.

This return shows another increase of £2,400,000 in the stock of bullion, bringing the total up to £17,700,000. Thus in four months there has been an addition of more than £7,600,000. The fact that during that period French public securities have not experienced the least rally becomes therefore the more serious, since it seems to indicate causes of apprehension in the minds of capitalists and the population generally, which cannot be overcome by any temporary feature that would otherwise produce buoyancy. This return shows a fresh reduction in the discounts of £1,440,000. The notes in circulation have increased £265,000; the deposits, £310,000; the Treasury balance, £133,000; and the advances on Rentes, £34,000. In the advances on railway shares there has been a diminution of £230,000.

THE LONDON AND EASTERN BANKING CORPORATION.

On the 22nd April, an important meeting in the matter of winding up this unfortunate undertaking was held at the chambers of Vice-Chancellor Wood, before Mr. Leman, his chief clerk, to proceed to make a call on all the shareholders in Class A, being the holders of shares at the date of the winding-up order, and also on those included in Class C, being shareholders who had transferred their shares within three years prior to the date of such order, the amount of call proposed to be made being at the rate of £50 per share.

The financial statement of Messrs. Stuart and Ball, the official managers engaged in investigating and in winding-up the affairs of the bank, set forth that the liabilities of the corporation on the 6th of April last amounted to £193,512, which amount was made up as follows:—drawing accounts, £200; deposit accounts, ex. interest, £7,042; bills payable, £107,700; Delhi Bank, £2,000; Uncovenanted Service Bank, £570; Indian claims, £13,000; Oriental Bank, £63,000; total, £193,512. The actual and estimated assets of the corporation amounted to £102,750, made up as follows:—Cash in hand, £1,100; bank houses in Pall-mall (leasehold), and King William-street (leasehold), £1,900; bills receivable current, £4,500; past-due bills, say, £35,250; sundry debtors, say £10,000; Branksea Island, and other assets, £50,000; total, £102,750. The official managers believed that the above estimate of the assets and liabilities was fair and reasonable, but the assets were insufficient to meet the liabilities by the sum of £90,762, or thereabouts. To meet this deficiency, it would be necessary to make a call on the shareholders of £50 per share, but inasmuch as on a call being made prior to the winding-up order, viz.,—on the 9th of April last, of £15 per share, and a similar call on the 14th of July last, many of the shareholders have made payments in respect of the same, such shareholders will have credit for the amount so paid. In arriving at the necessity of a call being made of £50 per share, the official managers had used the following estimate of the result of the said calls, and which they believed to be fair and reasonable:—Uncollected arrears of call of the 9th of April, 1857 (which was to produce nominally £75,000), £40,000; of which the available amount is £10,000; call the 14th of July, 1857, of which the available amount is £45,000; a further call of £20 per share, to produce nominally £100,000, of which the estimated available amount would be £60,000;—total, £115,000. If a call of £50 per share were made, the official managers believed that, after giving credit for sums paid on account of the calls of April 9 and July 14, it would not produce more than the above estimated amount of £115,000; and that the margin of £24,238, which it was estimated that the call of £50 per share would produce in excess of the estimated deficiency of £90,762, was a fair and reasonable margin to insure the discharge of the liabilities of the bank, and to cover contingencies arising from interest, costs, and charges, and other sources which could not now be specifically estimated.

Considerable discussion—in which Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker, Colonel Bevan, Colonel Yates, and others connected with the East India Company's service, and through their solicitors, took part—ensued on this proposition for a call of £50 per share on shareholders in Class A.

Messrs. Burchell, solicitors to the official managers, stated that although it had been proposed to make the call on Class C, still, from the present uncertain state of the law in regard to the transfer of shares, the call on them would not be pressed at the present moment, and it was probable it would not be necessary to call on shareholders in Class C for payment.

Messrs. Tatham, Upton, and Johnstone, Messrs. Smith and Nelson, solitors for sundry shareholders in this category, applied that the call in respect of Class C should be discharged.

The Chief Clerk ordered a discharge, but refused payment of costs.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker said he was a large shareholder, and that without his consent his name was published in the company's prospectus as a director, and sent out to India. He regretted to find that Major-General Corfield and General Brooke and others, who had taken an active part in the affairs of the bank, and held shares largely, now sought to obtain exemption from their liability, while numbers of military officers in the East India Company's service, and ladies and civilians connected with India, who had embarked the hard-earned savings of years in this bank, were sought, to be held liable, to their loss and ruin. He should strongly object to their names, and those of Mr. G. H. Smith and Mr. Stephens and others, being erased from the list of those to be held liable. It was a point of honour with him to protect the absent shareholders. He (Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker) had already contributed £8,000, and was about to pay £4,000 more, although he had been grossly deceived by the misrepresentations of the managers of this bank, and he hoped that other directors and shareholders would be compelled to pay their just quota. On the ground of moral and commercial principle he felt it to be his duty to call the attention of the public and of the Attorney-General to the gross mismanagement and to the transactions that had taken place in this bank between four of its directors—Colonel Waugh, Mr. Stephens, Mr. G. H. Smith, and Mr. Griffith—among whom a very gross breach of trust had been committed, by which the unfortunate shareholders were saddled with the total loss of all the money they had invested in the corporation, together with the £50 per share they were now called on to pay. If the official managers, Messrs. Stuart and Ball, did their duty on behalf of the shareholders, which he hoped they would do, they would work this matter out and carry it into a public court. Were he (Lieutenant Colonel Tucker) not now a ruined man through the transactions of the directors of this bank he would himself retain the first men at the bar for the purpose, but he now called on the official managers to protect the interests of the shareholders, believing that they were well and handsomely paid by the Court of Chancery to do it. During the last few months he had written to them continually, and had pointed their attention to several matters that appeared to have escaped their observation, and he felt convinced that if this affair was properly sifted Mr. G. H. Smith would be found liable for £19,000, and the other directors in proportionate amounts, and justice would be done to all parties. He (Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker) was induced to go into the bank on the representations of Smith that it was a flourishing concern, and that he (Smith) held 400 shares, which 400 shares, however, he sold in three weeks after; that Colonel Waugh was a leading man in London; that he had married a lady worth £25,000 a-year, had introduced an immense business to the bank; that his personal property was very great, and his real property £70,000 a-year; and although in March, 1857, the affairs of the bank and the delinquencies of Stephens were not fully known, there was quite enough to damn him. It would be highly desirable to have these gentlemen examined on their oaths and honour. In consequence of their conduct he (Colonel Tucker) had to sell his house and furniture to meet this call.

After some further discussion the call was made, and declared payable on the 31st of May.

In the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 29th April, Mr. Commissioner Evans gave judgment, on an application, to supersede a petition in bankruptcy which had been filed against the corporation.

His Honour said:—This is an application to supersede the petition in bankruptcy in this case. I do not find that there is any distinction between this and the case of the British Bank, except that in that case the dissolution of the company was by the act of the company itself, and in this case the dissolution was by the Court of Chancery. In both cases the dissolution appears to me to be equally conclusive as to future acts, but not to interfere with what the company had already done. If a person when in trade contracts debts he continues a trader till those debts are discharged. It is argued that all the property is vested in the official manager; if so he cannot suffer any injury from the bankruptcy, and the whole cost must fall on the petitioning creditor. I consider the case of the British Bank a decisive authority for refusing the application.

The adjudication was accordingly confirmed.

By subsequent proceedings the Court of Chancery have decreed that the bank be made bankrupt, and it was accordingly above declared bankrupt through the *London Gazette*.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

THE QUEEN V. HUMPHREY BROWN, KENNEDY AND OTHERS.

The above named defendants, who were the directors of the Royal British Bank, and who were recently convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, recently applied to the Court of Queen's Bench,—as reported in the *Bankers' Magazine* of last month, for a new trial. After lengthened arguments, their lordships took time to consider their decision, and on the 5th of May, Lord Campbell delivered judgment.

His Lordship said—Having taken time deliberately to consider all the evidence in this very complicated case, and the arguments of the counsel for the defendants in moving for a rule to show cause why the verdict should not be set aside, we are of opinion that no rule ought to be granted. It appears to us that the jury were well justified in finding that the conspiracy charged in the information was entered into, and that the defendants who make this application were privy to this conspiracy. One overt act alleged was the publication and distribution of a balance-sheet purporting to give a true statement of the condition and affairs of the bank for the year ending 31st of December, 1855; and another overt act was declaring and paying to the shareholders a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. out of profits of the bank for the year ending 31st of December, 1855, they, the defendants, well knowing that no such dividend ought to have been made. This balance-sheet for the year ending 31st of December, 1855, taken altogether, and faith being given to it, did show that the bank was then in a sound and prosperous condition, and that the dividend of 6 per cent. might properly be paid to the shareholders from realised profits. But a great body of evidence was adduced to prove that, to the knowledge of the directors the balance-sheet was deceptive, and that on the 31st of December, 1855, the bank had sustained a heavy loss, and was incapable of fulfilling its engagements. The deception was chiefly accom-

plished by including in the item on the creditor side, "By loans on convertible securities for short periods, advances on cash credit accounts, bills discounted, &c.," large sums for debts due to the bank which had long been known to be desperate, and giving no intimation by the balance-that such debts were not available, or that other large debts included in this item, for which the securities had become quite inadequate, were not available, and thus showing a surplus, which, if genuine, would probably yield a dividend, whereas, on a true statement of the affairs of the bank, there was no surplus from which a dividend could properly be made. If there had been in the balance-sheet an adequate reserve for bad and doubtful debts, the improper practice of continuing desperate debts in the item alluded to, instead of "writing them off," or carrying them to "profit and loss," would have been countervailed, and the shareholders would have been informed of the real condition of the bank; but, had this been done, instead of a surplus for a dividend, a deficit would have appeared. Regard being had to the losses which the company had sustained, and to the actual amount of bad debts, the professed provision for bad debts appearing in the balance-sheet was illusory and deceptive. Thus, there appears to have been material evidence to prove the conspiracy, and to prove both the overt acts referred to. It was, indeed, strongly argued that, according to the constitution of this company, the directors were authorised in declaring and paying a dividend of 6 per cent., although the company might previously have sustained heavy losses by bad and doubtful debts, disabling them from paying old debts which they themselves had contracted, if profits had been obtained on the transactions of the preceding year. But this startling assertion is entirely destroyed by a reference to the 63rd section of the charter, which says:—"That in each succeeding year, during the continuance of the co-partnership, the net profits, after making deduction and allowance for bad and doubtful debts, and after setting apart such proportion of such profits as the directors should think requisite for forming and maintaining a surplus fund, should be divided among the proprietors." A deduction and allowance having been duly made for bad and doubtful debts on the 31st of December, 1855, instead of a surplus, a large deficit would have been the result. The impropriety of declaring a dividend of 6 per cent. under such circumstances appears the greater from the consideration that, at this time, the directors, with a view of relieving the bank from its embarrassments, were issuing new shares at a premium, and were referring to this dividend as a proof that a premium on the new shares might be fairly expected. Complaint was made of misdirection by the judge at the trial, but the supposed misdirection consisted in observations on the evidence; and it appears from the printed report of the trial that he left the evidence to the jury, telling them to draw their own conclusions from it. However, it is contended by the learned counsel for the defendants, that at all events there is no sufficient evidence to implicate any of them in the conspiracy, the counsel for the directors throwing all the blame on Cameron, the manager, and the counsel for Cameron, the manager, throwing all the blame on the directors. Against these three defendants, Esdaile, Brown, and Cameron—as to whose guilt the jury declared they were unanimous from the beginning of their consultation, after retiring to consider of their verdict, and whom they convicted, without any recommendation to mercy—we are bound to say that the evidence appears to us to be irresistible. Esdaile had been a promoter of the scheme; he was an original director; he was for some time governor, and in 1855, during the illness of Cameron, he acted as manager; so that he must

necessarily have known all the affairs of the bank and all its transactions. With respect to Brown, it appears that the jury were cautioned not to allow his case to be prejudiced by the consideration that, being a director, he had obtained such very large advances, and that he had a strong interest to keep the concern afloat as long as possible; but that they should look only to the state of his knowledge of the condition of the bank and the part he took in the design to deceive the shareholders and the public. But it was proved that he had been a director from 1853 till the bank closed, and that he had taken a very active part in the management of its affairs, particularly in the Welsh mines, to which the ruin of the bank was chiefly ascribed. With respect to Cameron—assuming his intentions and expectations honest when the bank was first established under his management—it is quite clear upon the evidence that he was fully aware of all its losses and embarrassments as they arose, and that if he did not originate, he fully concurred in the expedients resorted to for the purpose of concealing its true condition and deceiving the public. The balance-sheets were all along framed on the same deceptive principle, and that of the 31st of December, 1855, was prepared under his directions. It is vain to say that he was the mere servant of the directors, and to cite authorities to show that, under certain circumstances, the servant may not be criminally liable for what he does under his master's orders. In this case Cameron from the beginning exercised the chief control over all the affairs and transactions of the bank; and although the directors unfortunately cannot excuse themselves for having joined him in his scheme of deceiving the shareholders and the public, they may be justified when they say of him, "*Ipse doli fabricator.*" We now come to another class of the defendants, who were recommended by the jury to mercy, and who, as far as moral delinquency is concerned, may be regarded in a more favourable point of view. Kennedy, Owen, and Macleod certainly all joined the bank without any improper motive, and believing that it was a sound and likely to be a flourishing concern. At no moment did they ever derive any accommodation or advantage from it, and, on the contrary, retaining their shares till the last, they were involved in the common ruin. The law of the land, as well as the rules of sound morality, must condemn a conspiracy to misrepresent facts for the purpose of leading others into danger, although this danger might not be certain and inevitable. Therefore, if these three gentlemen whose cases we are now considering were aware of the insolvent state of the bank, and concurred in the balance-sheet and the dividend, with a view to induce persons to retain or to purchase shares in the bank, in the hope, or even belief that they might thereby rescue the bank from its difficulties, they were in point of law guilty of the offence charged in the information, however much they may be the objects of compassion. Now, with respect to each of the three there seems to us to be evidence from which the jury were justified in finding the guilty knowledge and concert. Therefore we do not think that we should be justified in setting aside the verdict found against them by a special jury of merchants at Guildhall, fully competent to understand the subject, after a trial of thirteen days. Owen and most of the other defendants received an excellent character from respectable witnesses, who had long known them; but against strong, direct evidence character cannot avail; and it is lamentable to observe that from a rather relaxed standard of commercial morality now prevailing, practices of an equivocal nature may sometimes be resorted to without lowering in general estimation the reputation of the individuals concerned in them. All the defendants have put in affidavits asserting their innocence, but the facts upon which the jury came to a conclusion of their guilt stand

uncontradicted. Refusing the rule which is prayed, we may conclude by expressing a hope that this prosecution, although it perhaps bears hard on some of the objects of it, may have a salutary tendency to deter men engaged in mercantile pursuits from yielding to the temptation to violate the truth, even if they should think a wilful misrepresentation may be made without, in the event, certainly working a prejudice to those with whom they deal.

Rule refused.

THE CREDIT MOBILIER COMPANY.

THE general meeting of this company was held in Paris on the 30th April, M. Isaac Pereire in the chair.

The report referred to the commercial crisis of 1857, which it declared to have been unexampled for intensity, duration, and extent. France, however, was perhaps the country where the industrial and financial perturbation was the least acutely felt. That, as to the Crédit Mobilier, it had—at a period when very large establishments were obliged to suspend payments in specie or to have recourse to exceptional measures, and when the two Banks of England and France had been forced to raise their rate of discount to an amount considered almost impossible—afforded a vast amount of assistance to all the companies placed under its patronage, and aided them to safely pass through the formidable conjuncture which had presented itself. In addition, the Crédit Mobilier had enabled several of the great railway companies to obtain money for their bonds to the extent of 378,000 of these securities, and for an amount of more than 100,000,000f. (£4,000,000). The report then referred to the various enterprises which the Crédit Mobilier had more especially taken under its protection, beginning with those which were of French origin. These are:—1. The Paris Gas Company, to which it afforded assistance until that company could place out the bonds which it had been authorised to issue; these advances would shortly be repaid. 2. The Company of the Rue de Rivoli which had already rendered such services in embellishing the capital. 3. The Compagnie Maritime, which has suffered by the late crisis, but the losses were greatly exaggerated. 4. The Western Railway Company was aided powerfully in placing out its bonds. 5. The Dauphiné Railway Company obtained large advances; and, 6, the Southern Railway Company was aided with funds while issuing its bonds. The enterprises in foreign countries assisted by the Crédit Mobilier were:—1. The Austrian Railways Company, which was now in a most satisfactory state, all its engagements having been fulfilled, and its shares and bonds being negotiated with the greatest facility. 2. The Francis-Joseph Railway Company was founded, which, though hitherto impeded in its progress by the crisis, was sure to recover before long, being the means of uniting Pesth to Trieste and the Lower Danube to Vienna and the Adriatic. 3. The Western and Central Swiss railways. 4. The Russian railways, in respect of which the company had placed 600,000 shares, on which 150f. have been paid up, giving a sum of 90,000,000f. (£3,600,000), and on which anticipated payments have been effected to the extent of 47,139,750f. (£1,886,390); and, 5, the Spanish Crédit Mobilier, which possessed mines in Spain, had the privilege of lighting Madrid by gas, and had the concession of two railways, one from Cordova to Seville, and the other, the Northern line, running from Madrid

to the French frontier, and having a branch line to the port of Santander. The financial situation of the Crédit Mobilier of France was as follows on the 31st of December, 1857:—

Capital, 60,000,000f. (£2,400,000); accounts current. 68,546,431f. (£2,741,857); bills to pay, creditors, 3,911,264f. (£156,450); interest and dividends to pay, 3,025,373f. (£161,015); reserve, 2,000,000f. (£80,000); balance of profit, 4,133,733f. (£165,350); total of liabilities, 141,615,803f. (£5,664,632.)

That sum was thus represented;—In Rentes, 10,265,416f.; 2, in shares, 71,175,603f.; 3, bonds, 2,183,072f.; together, 83,563,991f. (£3,342,560); advances on shares, bonds, &c., at the Bourse, 49,341,459f. (£1,973,658); real property, 1,449,436f. (£57,977); leaving a balance in hand at the Bank, and interest to be paid on the 31st of December last, of 7,261,926f. (£290,477); total of assets, 141,616,803f. (£5,664,632.)

These figures showed a diminution of 8,500,873f. (£340,035) in the sum in hand, and 4,231,660f. (£169,266) in advances to companies. This last item had been greatly lessened since the above date. The item of bills in hand had increased 4,607,322f. (£184,293), but that of continuations at the Bourse had diminished 26,814,240f. (£1,072,570). The profits of the Crédit Mobilier in 1857 had been 7,982,905f. (319,315), and the expenses 819,172f. (£32,767), leaving a net profit of 7,133,733f. (286,548), on which had been paid, on December 31, as interest at 5 per cent., 3,000,000f. (£120,000), leaving a balance of 4,133,733f. (166,548). That sum could, no doubt, be distributed as dividend, but since the 31st of December, 1857, had occurred the abominable attempt on the Emperor's life, and since then every kind of security had fallen very considerably in value. The property of the company had, of course, become depreciated since the balance-sheet was made up. Under these circumstances the directors unanimously decided not to distribute any portion of that sum. To act otherwise they state would be to throw charges on the present year, which might become an obstacle to the ulterior prosperity of the company. The report concluded by announcing the withdrawal of M. André from the Board, the death of another director, M. Des Arts, and the return of the Duke de Galliera as director.

The meeting having adopted the accounts and confirmed the nomination of the Duke de Galliera, the proceedings terminated.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Board of Trade returns for the month of March, were issued on the 23rd April, and again show a great reduction in the declared value of our exportations. In January the falling off was £1,836,505, in February it was £2,024,624, and it is now £1,456,074. Almost every item is on the unfavourable side, cotton goods, owing to rather considerable shipments to India and China, forming the only important exception. The greatest decrease has been in iron, there being as yet no recovery from the check given to railroad enterprise in America and elsewhere by the late crisis. Woollen, silk, and linen manufactures likewise continue to show depression. The subjoined table exhibits the exact increase or decrease under the several heads:—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Months ending Mar. 31, 1857, and Mar. 31, 1858.	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.
Apparel and slops	£160,856	£109,909	—	£50,947
Beer and ale	197,365	142,579	—	54,786
Books	44,121	29,581	—	14,540
Butter	46,763	32,189	—	14,574
Candles	32,744	8,346	—	24,398
Cheese	9,226	5,214	—	4,012
Coals and culm	237,159	205,999	—	31,160
Cordage	37,206	24,711	—	12,495
Cottons	2,560,480	2,636,912	76,432	—
Cotton yarn	714,518	866,823	152,305	—
Earthenware	134,642	84,294	—	50,348
Fish	19,376	13,695	—	5,671
Furniture	23,011	21,338	—	1,673
Glass	64,031	43,613	—	20,418
Haberdashery	381,955	320,532	—	61,423
Hardwares	333,249	262,618	—	70,631
Leather	185,404	166,448	—	18,956
Linens	441,419	354,861	—	86,558
Linen yarn	146,971	152,293	5,322	—
Machinery	238,828	212,744	—	26,084
Iron and steel	1,238,538	758,439	—	480,099
Copper and brass	229,890	217,565	—	12,325
Lead	71,243	35,250	—	35,993
Tin	149,146	118,415	—	30,731
Oil seed	78,577	66,777	—	11,800
Painters' colours	51,849	34,691	—	17,158
Pickles and sauces	35,716	27,997	—	7,719
Plate and jewellery	51,036	43,974	—	7,062
Salt	23,808	17,876	—	5,932
Silks	266,792	144,955	—	121,837
Soap	22,708	15,050	—	7,658
Soda	69,954	51,237	—	18,717
Spirits	82,369	15,407	—	66,962
Stationery	73,467	55,624	—	17,843
Sugar, refined	37,217	21,972	—	15,245
Wool	68,678	74,065	5,387	—
Woollens	882,817	737,994	—	144,823
Woollen Yarn	193,088	193,490	402	—
Unenumerated articles	820,141	674,797	—	145,344
Total	10,456,348	9,000,274		

With regard to imported commodities, the arrivals of wheat and flour constitute a principal feature. In the quantities of other grain there has been a falling off. The consumption of all the chief articles of food and luxury has been on a full scale, and continues to illustrate the beneficial results experienced from the increased purchasing power of the community observable since the reduction of the income-tax from its war point. Coffee, cocoa, tea, sugar, tobacco, fruits and spices all present augmented totals.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption :—

Months ending March 31, 1857, and March 31, 1858.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Grain, wheat, qrs.	159,739	201,622	159,739	201,622
Grain of other descriptions, qrs.	312,054	114,097	312,054	114,097
Indian corn, qrs....	80,382	100,831	80,382	100,831
Flour and meal, cwt.	142,133	529,763	142,133	529,763
Provisions—Bacon, &c. &c., cwt.	95,606	72,616	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt.	65,385	61,152	61,359	58,737
Animals, No.	9,926	2,924	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	14,319,400	13,441,200	14,319,200	13,362,000
Cocoa, lb.	871,743	353,964	277,563	317,308
Coffee, lb.	1,841,814	3,283,294	1,002,793	3,369,286
Sugar, cwt.	526,433	492,296	401,716	671,221
Tea, lb....	9,168,072	7,573,685	1,892,959	5,984,119
Rice, cwt.	134,079	319,037	127,011	103,963
Spirits, gallons	1,371,863	598,976	411,900	411,115
Wines, gallons	1,002,549	399,904	632,319	551,937
Tobacco, lb.	1,822,965	2,682,206	2,736,977	2,950,190
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt...	39,750	21,067	21,636	37,800
Lemons and oranges, bushels ...	133,037	160,660	139,972	168,034
Spices, lb.	814,103	920,335	289,137	349,519
Ditto, cwt.	4,421	4,690	1,737	1,720

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing a great diminution in each case, with the exception of hemp and tallow :—

Months ending March 31, 1857, and March 31, 1858.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Flax, cwt.	61,502	24,714	—	—
Hemp, cwt	43,831	46,915	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	1,084,157	619,179	106,137	111,565
Cotton, cwt....	877,482	661,951	106,934	50,463
Wool, lb.	7,899,774	4,247,643	4,433,459	3,135,196
Tallow, cwt.	41,319	62,521	3,148	300

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Months ending March 31, 1857, and March 31, 1858	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	89,836	98,049	86,243	99,611
Ditto of India, pieces	24,236	17,906	12,269	12,966

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. CHAS. WALTON AND CO.

An adjourned meeting of creditors of Messrs. C. Walton and Sons, ship and insurance brokers, who stopped on the 19th of January, took place on the 29th March. The subject chiefly discussed was a disposal of a half share in the "Sarah Sands" steamer to Mr. G. Lloyd, of the firm of Lloyd, Beilby, and Co., Sydney, merchants, the proprietor of the other moiety. A report was read from the committee of investigation appointed at the last meeting, detailing the whole transaction, and intimating a doubt whether the sale stands good, in which case the assets will be proportionably increased. It was ultimately resolved to effect a composition of 3*s.* in the pound, the creditors to have the benefit of any surplus that may arise in liquidation of the estate.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. MAITLAND, EWING AND CO.

At a meeting held on the 21st April, of the creditors of Messrs. Maitland, Ewing and Co., in the China trade, who failed on the 3rd instant, the following statement, showing a surplus of £28,650, was presented by Mr. J. E. Coleman, of the firm of Messrs. Coleman, Turquand, Youngs and Co.:—

Dr.

To creditors unsecured—							
On open accounts				£5,452	13	10	
On bills payable				26,725	18	2	
							£32,178 12 0
To creditors partially secured—							
Amount of claims				67,909	11	9	
Estimated value of securities held ...				52,228	5	11	
							15,681 5 10
To creditors fully secured—							
Estimated value of securities held ...				52,866	0	0	
Amount of claims				39,514	5	6	
Surplus taken as an asset, per contra ..				13,351	14	6	
To liabilities on bills payable, &c.—							
For account of Moncrieff, Grove and Co.	£105,067	19	8				
Ditto, ditto, part of letter of credit for £10,000	8,346	18	6				
				113,414	18	2*	
To liabilities for account of sundries	16,268	17	6				
Of which parties for whose account they were drawn will provide to the extent of	13,144	13	1	3,124	4	5	
							116,539 2 7

* The whole of the bills drawn by Messrs. Moncrieff, Grove and Co., are in our opinion fully represented by produce and other properties in their hands; and we have every reason to believe that Messrs. Moncrieff, Grove and Co., not knowing the depreciation of prices in England, considered that the produce and remittances already forwarded by them were sufficient to meet the bills that have matured. In consequence of the altered state of matters, we have in our late advices strongly urged the necessity of speedy remittances, and to which no doubt they will readily respond.

To liabilities on bills receivable, as per statement	£51,715	2	9			
Of this amount it is not expected anything will come against the estate.						
				£164,399	0	4
To surplus				28,650	16	9
				£193,049	17	2
Cr.						
By cash and bills receivable on hand				£5,237	2	11
By debtors—						
Considered good	£11,543	2	3			
Secured	1,321	11	10			
				12,864	14	1
Doubtful	32,239	6	3			
Estimated to realise	5,000	0	0			
				5,000	0	0
Carried to losses	27,239	6	3			
By Moncrieff, Grove and Co.—						
Balance to their debit, after crediting the estimated value of produce unsold consigned to us by them	10,584	9	4			
Amount of bills accepted for their account, per contra	113,414	18	2*			
				123,999	7	6
By produce on hand—						
On our own account—estimated value	1,444	0	0			
Consigned by Moncrieff, Grove and Co.—estimated value	23,590	0	7			
				25,034	0	7
By adventures outstanding—						
Balance in ledgers	11,043	4	10			
Estimated value	4,600	0	0			
				4,600	0	0
Carried to losses...	6,443	4	10			
By shares in ships—						
Balance in ledgers	6,257	13	0			
Estimated value	3,000	0	0			
				3,000	0	0
Carried to losses	3,257	13	0			
By estimated surplus from property in hands of creditors...				13,351	14	6
Lease and improvements, furniture, &c., premises, 21, Birchin-lane—estimated value				500	0	0
				£193,586	19	7
Deduct—Sundries to be paid in full				537	2	5
				£193,049	17	2

Statement showing position of the Firm at Dec. 31st, 1856, and accounting for present surplus.

Dr.

To capital, December 31, 1856	£50,086 14 1		
Brought in since, less drawings ...	4,073 2 10		
		£54,159	16 11
To profits, from December 31, 1856, to April 3, 1858:—			
Adventures	5,451 13 5		
Commission, interest, insurance, &c. ...	9,103 14 11		
		14,555	8 4
		£68,715	5 3

Cr.

By estimated losses on realisation of debtors	£27,239 6 3		
Adventures	6,443 4 10		
Shares in ships	3,257 13 0		
		£36,940	4 1
By liabilities on bills payable	... ...	3,124	4 5
Statement of affairs—surplus	... ...	28,650	16 9
		£68,715	5 3

The whole of the explanations were received as satisfactory, the circumstances attending the suspension of the firm, and the connection between Messrs. Maitland, Ewing and Co., and Messrs. Moncrieff, Grove and Co., being fully entered into. The last advices from Messrs. Moncrieff and Co., together with the personal testimony of one of the partners, Mr. King, led to the impression that that house is perfectly solvent, and able to meet the whole of its engagements. Taking the worst view of the case, the loss cannot be great, the figures furnished being very encouraging. The position of the bill-holders has created the only difficulty, and these parties, represented by the London Joint Stock Bank, the Mercantile Bank of India, and the Agra and United Service Bank, requiring time for intelligence from China, a short adjournment was suggested. It was, however, intimated that such a proceeding could not be adopted without danger, since, as bills continue to become due, some of the small creditors may throw the estate into bankruptcy, which will seriously depreciate the assets. Besides, the situation of the billholders has already been in a measure secured, by £10,000 having been paid in to the Bank of England on their account. In answer to questions, it was stated that Messrs. Moncrieff, Grove and Co. have no important connections with any other house except Messrs. Dennistoun, Cross and Co., of Melbourne, and that the whole of their transactions with Messrs. Maitland, Ewing and Co. have been on the most sound basis. The original proposition that the estate shall be wound up under inspection, Mr. Hugh Mattheson, Mr. Alexander Anderson, and Mr. John Scott, the chairman, acting for the creditors, was then agreed to, and it is believed that a first payment of 20 or 25 per cent. may be made within a month, and others at a correspondingly early period. Every confidence was expressed in the position of Messrs. Maitland, Ewing and Co., and also in

that of the house of Messrs. Moncrieff, Grove and Co., great sympathy being exhibited at the slightest interruption to the business of the former. With respect to the books of Messrs. Maitland, it was stated that they are in perfect order, a trial balance having been produced immediately after the announcement of suspension. It is still understood that no bills will be returned to China pending the arrangements which are being carried out in this country.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. JAMES HOSKING AND CO.

At a meeting of the creditors of the estate of Messrs. James Hosking and Co., who suspended at the end of March, held at the office of Messrs. Lawrence, Plews and Co., on the 29th April, the following balance-sheet was presented by Mr. Turquand, of the firm of Coleman, Turquand, Youngs and Co., accountants :—

Dr.

To creditors unsecured		£3,917	11 6
Ditto, partially secured		883	6 10
Liabilities on bills payable, viz., good	£1,575 3 11		
Bad	1,647 1 3	1,647	1 3
	£3,222 5 2		
Liabilities on bills receivable, viz., good	2,890 16 3		
As per statement	£6,113 1 5		
Liabilities on account of goods supplied to ship Lyme Regis, for which we guaranteed the payment, as per statement	£442 6 9		
Liability to owners of sundry vessels for freight on 22 vessels chartered to load with guano at the Kooria Mooria Islands, but which, from unforeseen difficulties, were obliged to leave the Islands without obtaining cargoes		64,926	19 2
Note.—These vessels have proceeded to various ports to obtain freights, the amount of which would go in reduction of this liability.			
To liability to owners of sundry vessels for freight on four vessels chartered for a similar purpose		9,431	4 8
Note.—These vessels are advised to have commenced loading with guano, and if successful this liability for freight would be discharged.			
To liability to lessees under Government of the Kooria Mooria Islands for claim for royalty and license fees on an engagement to import 30,000 tons of guano			
This liability is disputed			
		£80,806	3 5

Cr.				
By cash balance in hand 18th March, 1858	£150 0 1			
Deduct since paid in full for salaries, &c. as per statement	70 0 0		£80	0 1
By debtors:—Good	... ...		171	9 1
Doubtful	£569 8 3			
Estimated at 10*s.*	284 14 1		284	14 1
	£284 14 2			
Bad as per statement ...	195 9 6			
	480 3 8			
By property, as per statement			368	5 7
			£904	8 10
Deduct rent for one quarter to March 25, 1858, payable in full			35	0 0
			£869	8 10
By nine cargoes of guano *in transitu* from Kooria Mooria Islands, carrying about 4,440 tons, estimated at £9 per ton ...	£39,960 0 0			
Subject to claims of owners for freight, dead freight, labour, and demurrage £28,181 17 6				
And license fees and royalty on three cargoes... ... 1,496 0 0				
	29,677 17 6		10,282	2 6
And subject to claims of parties who have entered into agreements to participate in profits	2,458 7 1			
As per statement	£7,823 15 5			

After some discussion, it was decided to leave the management of the estate in the hands of Mr. Turquand, and for him to call another meeting of the creditors when circumstances should render such necessary.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. CHRISTODULO AND SUGDURY.

A meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Christodulo and Sugdury, engaged in the Levant trade, who suspended payment some months since, was held on the 4th May, Mr. G. Lascaridi in the chair, when the following statement prepared by Mr. Weise, of the firm of Messrs. Coleman, Turquand and Co., was presented. Although the estate appears small, the interests involved are important, the firm having been connected with other establishments at Constantinople, Marseilles, and Odessa. Attempts have been made by the partners to arrange their own affairs, and previous meetings have been held on the accounts, but with the exception of appointing a committee of examination nothing was done, and it was at length determined to call in professional aid.

Statement of the Affairs of Messrs. Christodulo and Sugdury, of Gresham House, Old Broad-street, Merchants, exclusive of the Liabilities and Assets of the other Houses in which E. Christodulo is a partner; March 31, 1858 :—

Dr.							
To creditors on open accounts					£8,344	4	3
Ditto bills payable	£6,362	15	6				
Less amount standing to the debit of parties for whose account the bills were accepted	26	17	0				
					6,335	18	6
To creditors fully secured—							
Security held	£1,384	2	4				
Claims	1,100	0	0				
To contra	£284	2	4				
Creditors partially secured—							
Claims	£4,800	0	0				
Security held	3,800	0	0				
					1,000	0	0
Liabilities					£15,680	2	9
Liabilities on bills discounted, the whole which are expected to be met at maturity	£7,725	2	0				
					£15,680	2	9
Cr.							
By assets, consisting of cash at bankers', and office furniture					£1,901	12	9
Debtors, good					792	5	2
Surplus securities with creditors, per contra					284	2	4
Assets					£3,068	0	3
By Sugdury, Son and Co., Odessa					5,975	0	1
E. Sugdury, Constantinople					47	2	0
Emanuel Christodulo, Marseilles	£5,737	14	3				
Less capital standing to his credit ...	4,000	0	0				
					1,737	14	3
					£10,827	16	7

General Balance-sheet, from Dec. 1, 1857, *to March* 31, 1858.

Dr.							
To liabilities, as above					£15,680	2	9
Profits	£15,733	15	6				
Three-quarter share, credited to Emanuel Christodulo, of Marseilles	11,799	17	1				
					3,933	18	5
					£19,614	1	2

Messrs. Christodulo and Sugdury will also be liable for about £100 on the safe arrival of the ship "Adele" at Ibraila, to which place she is now on her way.

Cr.

By assets, &c., as above			10,527	16 7
Loss on bad debts	574	12 9		
Loss on consignment, &c....	16,656	7 2		
Charges and expenses	3,675	13 1		
	20,906	13 0		
Three-quarter share debited to Emannel Christodulo	16,680	0 6		
			5,226	12 6
G. Sugdury's drawings			3,559	12 1
			£19,614	1 2

There is a sum of £160 to be recovered on the policy of the ship Arpadina, but it is very doubtful, on account of various claims, whether anything will be available for the estate.

It was explained that the estate was in an involved position owing to its relations with other houses abroad; but it was at the same time stated that the books were well kept, affairs having apparently been conducted in a straightforward manner. It was also intimated that the creditors of the head house—viz., E. Christodulo, of Marseilles, had agreed that all the firms in which Mr. E. Christodulo was interested should be considered as one, and that the proposal of settlement made, 25 per cent., had been accepted by a large majority. After a lengthened discussion, it was agreed to wind up the estate, through the process of inspection, the creditors appointed being Mr. Lascaridi and Mr. Zarifi. The individuals present recommended that when the creditors of the three other houses—viz., Messrs. E. Christodulo, of Marseilles; Messrs. Sugdury and Sons, of Odessa, and Mr. E. Sugdury, of Constantinople, had agreed to accept the offer that Mr. E. Christodulo, of Marseilles, made, that the English creditors should agree to such offer, and for that purpose hand over the English assets to a general fund for the payment of the said 25 per cent.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. FELIX CALVERT & CO.

The investigation into the affairs of Messrs. Felix Calvert and Co., the brewers of Upper Thames-street, having been completed by Messrs. Quilter, Ball and Co., the annexed statements were issued on the 4th May, for the information of the public, with the accompanying memorandum:—

"We are authorised to state that a full investigation of the affairs of Messrs. Felix Calvert and Co. has now been gone into, under the superintendence of Messrs. Quilter, Ball and Co., and the following is a copy of the statements prepared. From these it would appear, that if the assets could be realised at their estimated value, the joint estate would show a surplus of £242,513 3*s.* 2*d.*, a sum more than sufficient to cover the estimated deficiency shown on the private estates, and it is, therefore, hoped, that if the settlement can be effected as proposed under a deed of inspectorship, all parties will be paid in full with interest. But it appears, in the event of unfriendly proceedings, and a consequent hostile liquidation, so

many questions will arise among the different classes of creditors, that it will be very doubtful whether all the creditors will be paid in full, besides that great delay and expense will necessarily result from the litigation that will ensue." This memorandum emanates direct from the representatives of the firm, and it may therefore be viewed as the commentary of the partners, on their own position. It may be well understood that unpleasant revelations will have to be made, if the whole details of the conduct of the business were brought before the public, and the studied attempt to avoid any prominent examination cannot, consequently, be misconstrued. With respect to the ultimate results of a forced winding-up, will not litigation probably arise out of the administration of the joint and the separate estates? Are the Chancery suits settled with Messrs. Williams, Deacon and Co., and is the partnership arrangement in the Westminster Brewery adjusted? It will require some management to steer clear of litigation in this respect, apart from any movement that may be followed by the creditors. Looking at the figures themselves, it appears that the amount owing to depositors and customers is £471,000, and that the loss by the Westminster Brewery is between £50,000 and £60,000. Although it is attempted to be assumed that the Westminster Brewery is a distinct concern, from what is publicly known there is little doubt of the validity of the partnership; but if an arrangement can be accomplished, so much the better it will be for those interested in the estate. To meet this £471,000 liabilities the assets are taken at £713,450, and stand represented by a variety of important items, but the estimates may prove fallacious. The brewhouse estate and public-house property, although valued on the same principle as the formation of the existing firm in 1854, is, probably, over-estimated, and that to a considerable amount, because those acquainted with the trade entertain an impression that, in the interim, the actual value of this class of property has declined.

Statement of the Affairs of Messrs. Felix Calvert and Co., April 10, 1858:—

Dr.

To sundry creditors, viz.—			
Depositors	£326,435 16 2		
Trade accounts	144,501 16 5		
		470,937 12 7	
To creditors fully secured, viz.—			
Estimated value of property ...	739,705 13 7		
Estimated amount of claims ...	265,131 0 6		
Surplus per contra	474,574 13 1		
To liabilities, viz.—			
On account of the Westminster Brewery...	19,110 14 11		
On account of debts secured by and expected to be paid out of the private estates of the partners	40,000 0 0		
	£59,110 14 11		

Note.—This statement is made out on the assumption that the Westminster Brewery is a distinct concern, and that the arrangements now in progress for carrying it on irrespective of Messrs. Calvert will be completed.

£470,937 12 7

Cr.

By cash at bankers'				£4,138 16 8
Sundry debtors				125,550 10 6
Brewery estate, plant, utensils, &c. ...	£261,865 0 0			
Deduct mortgages	128,540 7 5			
		£133,324 12 7		
By leases and freeholds of public houses, &c., estimated at what they would realise if sold to a tenant ...	468,692 15 8			
Deduct claims secured by deposit of deeds	127,442 15 2			
		341,250 0 6		
Being surplus per contra ...				474,574 13 1
By malt, hops, &c.				11,622 10 6
Ale, stout and porter				17,942 0 0
Casks				13,122 5 0
Wine establishment (debts and stock)				34,000 0 0
Surplus of private estates, viz. :—				
John Johnson's, estimated at ...		£30,000 0 0		
N. Calvert's reversionary interest in Irish property at the decease of his mother, estimated at ...		2,500 0 0		
				32,500 0 0
By Westminster Brewery		£40,000 0 0		

NOTE.—The brewhouse estate and the public-house property have been valued on precisely the same principle as was adopted at the time of the formation of the present firm in 1854.

£713,450 15 9

Statement of the Affairs of the Private Estates of Edmond Calvert and Felix Ladbroke, April 10, 1858 :—

Dr.

To creditors holding bonds and notes				£127,464 0 0
Creditors unsecured (private deposit accounts) ...				203,324 18 5
Creditors fully secured—				
Estimated value of property ...		£630,853 6 8		
Amount of claims		362,107 10 0		
Surplus per contra		£268,745 16 8		
				£330,788 18 5

Cr.

By private estate of E. Calvert		£290,200 0 0		
Deduct mortgages thereon ...		182,307 10 0		
				£107,892 10 0
Carried forward				£107,892 10 0

Brought forward ...			£107,892	10 0
By private estate of F. Ladbroke ...	£340,653	6 8		
Deduct mortgages thereon	179,800	0 0		
			£160,853	6 8
			£268,745	16 8
By deficiency			62,043	1 9
			£330,788	18 5

A numerously attended meeting of deposit creditors of Messrs. Calvert and Co. took place on the 11th May, Mr. W. Smalley in the chair. It appeared that the number of trade creditors of the firm is only 12, exclusive of tradesmen's bills amounting to about £3,000, and that the mortgages on the brewery and public-houses are respectively held by two and seven parties, from whom no opposition to the winding-up of the estate under inspectors is anticipated. Under the proposed deed of inspection it is hoped, by lowering the rate of interest of depositors and other reductions, to effect a saving in the expenditure of £20,000 annually, and that not only will the whole of the interest and part of the principal of the deposits be paid in the course of the next two years, but also that the concern will be brought into such a satisfactory position that persons of wealth may be induced to enter it and clear off the remaining liability. On the other hand, the consequences will be ruinous if bankruptcy is resorted to. Should 359 public-houses be forced on the market, it would cause a heavy loss on the sum at which they are estimated, and also depreciate the value of that description of property. Again, both the brewery and the public-houses are, as far as profit is concerned, in some measure self-dependent, and would suffer from being separated. The depositors are 369 in number, with claims varying from £10 to £10,000. They are of all classes—persons who have retired from business and intended to live upon the interest of their deposits; others who had left their money for a period, and who were about to enter into trade, &c.; and include 44 societies, whose debts amount to more than £11,000. The concurrence of this class of creditors in the proposed liquidation cannot be predicted with certainty, as, although no doubt six-sevenths of them in amount will agree, some difficulty is apprehended with regard to the six-sevenths in number legally required. The proposed inspectors are Mr. White, of the firm of Wigan, White and Co., hop factors; Mr. H. Kingscote, formerly connected with Bruce, Buxton and Co.; and Mr. J. Morse, one of Messrs. Calvert's collectors, and a depositor to a large amount. Some discussion took place on the possible appointment of a fourth, the feeling of the meeting being expressed strongly in favour of the nomination of the chairman, but it was explained that any interpolation would invalidate the deed and nullify the signatures already appended. It was ultimately determined to request the inspectors to permit a periodical examination of the accounts by Mr. Smalley, and a resolution was passed pledging the assistance of the creditors present in the future carrying on of the brewery. In the course of the proceedings it transpired that the stoppage arose from Messrs. Calvert having over-extended their business, especially by speculating in the wine trade since the year 1846, at which time they commenced to mortgage their property.

It has been officially intimated that the great majority of the creditors of Messrs Felix Calvert and Co. have affixed their signatures to the deed of inspectorship under which it is proposed to liquidate the affairs of the estate. The required six-sevenths in number and value having been obtained, there is every prospect of recourse to bankruptcy being obviated. Two trader debtors' summonses, it is understood, have been issued against the firm, but these, it is presumed, will have to be arranged. The following is the announcement issued by the accountants :—

"IN RE MESSRS. FELIX CALVERT AND CO.

"Messrs. Quilter, Ball and Co. present their compliments to the editor, and beg to imform him that the requisite number of creditors—viz., 6-7ths in number and value—have executed Messrs. F. Calvert and Co.'s deed of arrangement.

"65, Coleman-street, E.C., London, May 22, 1858."

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. ROBERT BROWNE AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Robert Browne and Co., East Indian and Australian merchants, who suspended on the 15th April, was held on the 20th May, Mr. C. G. Grainger in the chair, when the following statement was presented by Mr. Glegg, of the firm of Messrs. Quilter, Ball and Co. :—

Dr.			
To sundry creditors, unsecured			£577 15 8
Creditors fully secured, estimated value of securities	£6,082 7 8		
Deduct amount of claims ...	5,960 9 6		
	£391 18 2		
Liabilities on drafts accepted or guaranteed by us, viz. :—			
Secured by produce, amount of acceptances	£27,352 0 4		
Deduct estimated value of securities	25,832 9 2		
			1,519 11 2
Unsecured			30,391 8 7
Note.—These liabilities are subject to reduction by the value of any securities that may have been lodged against the drafts on Ceylon.			
			£32,488 15 5
Cr.			
By cash and bill on hand			£1,263 2 11
Sundry debtors—			
Considered good			137 16 8
Bad 21 7 9			
Sundry property			2,119 5 7
Surplus securities held by creditors, per contra ...			391 18 2
Carried forward			£3,912 3 4

	Brought forward			£3,912 3 4
By Debt at Melbourne—£2,887 4*s.* 11*d.* estimated to produce...				2,000 0 0
				£5,912 3 4
J. Swan and Co., Colombo ...	... £1,320	12	10	
Melbourne firm, in liquidation ...	... 952	0	3	
Deficiency carried forward				26,576 12 1
				£32,488 15 5

It was explained that the operations of the house have not been conducted on a very extensive scale, and that the connection with Messrs. J. Swan and Co., of Ceylon, have produced their embarrassments. Bills to the extent of £31,000 have been accepted on account of that firm, and the absence of remittances to meet them have necessitated the suspension. The total liabilities are estimated at £32,488, and the assets are £5,912. The principal creditors are the Oriental Bank and the Mercantile Bank of India, the ordinary claimants representing only about £1,500. After some discussion it was resolved that a composition of 3*s.* 4*d.* in the pound shall be paid to the general creditors, exclusive of the Mercantile Bank of India and the Oriental Bank, the period fixed to be within one month if the banks agree to this liquidation. It was also arranged that the creditors shall not be prejudiced or affected by these proceedings as to their rights or remedies against other persons than the said Robert Browne.

THE ESTATE OF MR. H. P. MAPLES.

THE adjourned meeting of the creditors of Mr. H. P. Maples, ship and insurance broker, who suspended some two months since, was held on the 28th of May, when Mr. Brett, one of the committee appointed on a former occasion to investigate the estate, reported that the negotiation with the Brighton and Western of France Railway Companies had terminated without arriving at a satisfactory conclusion. It appears that the companies offer less for the vessels than the mortgages on them, and under these circumstances the committee believe that it will be better for the creditors to accept a composition, instead of waiting any longer, when affairs may become worse. After explanations from Mr. Weise with respect to the accounts, and statements of the nature of the contracts with the railway companies from Mr. Maples, an arrangement for 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound was proposed and accepted, a large number of the creditors signing before the proceedings concluded.

Banking and Commercial Law.

MARRIED WOMEN AND BILLS OF EXCHANGE.

A LATE decision of the Master of the Rolls in a case of *Dawson* v. *Prince* (26 Law J. Ch. 849), seemed to add another danger to those which already attach to bills of exchange drawn out of the common form; and we are not sorry to find the decision

has been reversed upon appeal. It was then broadly la down that a bill of exchange drawn in favour of a marri woman afforded notice to everybody that it was separate pr perty, with which the husband had no power to deal; a although it was admitted that the husband could transfer t legal title, yet an injunction was granted to prevent the tra feree from enforcing payment. On appeal, this decision w reversed, and Lord Justice Turner made the following rema in his judgment: "Both on principle and authority, the Co would give no relief against a purchaser for valuable conside tion clothed with the legal title, and who had no notice of a equities affecting the instrument." Now it was not denied the present case that the defendant Prince had a good legal ti and the questions were, whether he had actual or construct notice of the plaintiff's equity, and whether he was a purcha for valuable consideration. First, as to the notice, it had be contended that the mere fact of a bill of exchange being dra in favour of a married woman, was in itself notice that it wa respect of her separate estate; but assuming this to be tr although his Lordship did not at all decide that it was, he w of opinion that it was immaterial to the present case. The bi purported to bear the endorsement of the plaintiff, and, in answ to Mince's inquiries, he was told by her husband that th endorsement was in her own handwriting. His Lordship thoug that he was entitled to rely upon this statement, and could n hold that he was bound to make any further enquiries. H decided this case on the authority of *Jones* v. *Smith*, and *Wa* v. *Lord Egremont*; and, although the plaintiff's counsel ha urged that those cases had reference only to real estate, he (th Lord Justice) thought that they were decided upon the bro principle, and he could not see why it would not be as dangero to extend the doctrine of constructive notice in a commerci transaction as in a case affecting real estate. Then, again, it ha been argued that this was not an ordinary commercial tra action, but that the bill was an instrument of commerce in th hands of a person engaged in commercial transactions; and i could not be said that it was incumbent on such a person t treat such an instrument otherwise than according to comme cial usage. His Lordship had come therefore to the conclusio that Prince could not be held to be affected with notice that th signature of the plaintiff was a forgery, on which point he shoul express no opinion.

The question of valuable consideration paid by the defendan remained, and his Lordship thought he was a purchaser fo valuable consideration. If Prince had himself discounted th

ere could have been no doubt; and the fact, that he did ually advance the money, but procured it to be done, idered himself liable to those who made the advance, ot make any difference. It was said, however, that was merely the agent of Dawson; but even if so, he was ability to account to his principal.

then, this bill ought to be dismissed, and with costs; s much as the plaintiff had the authority of the Master olls in his favour, there would be no costs of the appeal e, nor would there be any costs of the appeal at all, g those of the Bank of Australasia, which must be roughout by the next friend of the plaintiff.

onsequences of any other decision would have been the much hazard in similar transactions. It is not unusual, i it is certainly not a general practice, to make bills of e payable to married women, when such bills have no to their separate estate; and in such cases the husband's nent alone is sufficient, without the wife's. It would reat difficulties in the way of negotiating such bills, if held that being payable to a married woman is notice y are her separate property. In the present case, the er of the bill would have been the victim of a fraud, iich we are glad he escaped; but we simply direct i to the legal principles involved in the result.

THE NEW LAW OF BANKERS' CHEQUES.

owing are the exact words of the new law, imposing a uty of one penny on all bankers' cheques:—

n and after the passing of this act, all drafts or orders ayment of any sum of money to the bearer on demand ing drawn upon any banker, or any person or persons i a banker, and residing or transacting the business of ', within fifteen miles of the place where such drafts or re issued, are now exempt from stamp duty, shall be le with the stamp duty of one penny for every such order."

Legal Miscellany.

THE HEMEL HEMPSTEAD BANK.—IN RE W. SMITH.

s of the creditors of Mr. W. Smith took place at the Court of y, before Mr. Commissioner Fane, on the 24th April.

The bankrupt was a banker, of Hemel Hempstead and of Watford, trading under the firm of Smith and Whittingstall, and late in partnership with Edward Fernley Whittingstall, deceased. The bankruptcy occurred in August, 1856, but the proceedings have been adjourned from time to time, in consequence of a suit in Chancery which was pending between the assignees of the bankrupt and the representatives of the late Mr. Whittingstall. This was the certificate meeting. Voluminous accounts were filed previous to Mr. Smith passing his examination, showing that the debts due by the bank, which were upwards of £84,200 at the death of Mr. Whittingstall, in March, 1856, had been reduced to £15,779. Mr. Smith having paid in liquidation £68,424; but other liabilities of upwards of £51,000 had accrued before the date of the petition. The assets given up to the official assignee amounted to £7,400, but the dividend has been deferred in expectation of a considerably larger sum being received under the Chancery proceedings.—Mr. Linklaker appeared for the assignees, Mr. Bagley for the bankrupt, and Mr. Lawrance for the executors of Mr. Whittingstall. — After some conversation a further adjournment was ordered, pending the negotiations of certain arrangements with the representatives of the deceased partner.—Mr. Bagley said that if he was correctly informed, in the event of the arrangement being carried out, the separate creditors of both Smith and Whittingstall would get 20*s.* in the pound, and there would be a dividend of 17*s.* in the pound on the joint estate.—Mr. Linklater said he believed that would be so.—His Honour said it must be very satisfactory to the creditors to know this.

THE KETTERING BANK—IN RE GOTCH AND GOTCH.

At the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 19th May, John Davis Gotch and Thomas H. Gotch, bankers at Kettering, and who also traded as tanners, shoe manufacturers and brewers, there and in Long Acre, London, applied to Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque for their certificates. Mr. Linklater opposed on behalf of certain creditors; Mr. Lawrance also opposed for the assignees, and Mr. Lewis supported the application.

Thomas Henry Gotch deposed that he and his brother, John Davis Gotch, had carried on the business since the death of their father, John Cooper Gotch, in July, 1852. The business had been continued since 1852 in the name of Thomas Cooper Gotch and Sons, and notes had been issued accordingly. In 1852 stock was taken, when, after making an allowance of £28,056 for bad debts, the bank was deficient to the amount of £16,000; but as there was a surplus of £22,000 on the other business, the net surplus of the partners was £6,300. In 1853 stock was again taken, when the position of affairs was improved to the extent of £1,000. There had been subsequent stock-takings, but they could not be produced. In the stock-taking of 1852 the debts owing to the firm were thus classed:—A good; B 17*s.* 6*d.* in the pound; C 15*s.*; D 12*s.* 6*d.*; E 10*s.*; F 7*s.* 6*d.*; G 5*s.*; H 2*s.* 6*d.*; and I nothing in the pound. The letter C included a debt of £3,600 by the Rev. Mr. Macpherson; one of £5,411 by Mr. Gill, ironmonger; and one of £6,827, by Mr. Cooke. The letter A included £1,145, owing by Mr. Clough, baker; and one of £615 by Mr. Richard Fish, draper. The letter F included a debt of £15,000, owing by Mr. Warden, shoemaker and farmer. The letter G included a debt of £4,557 owing by Mr. Gotch, butcher, a relative. The debt of Macpherson had since been allowed to increase from £3,600 to £24,900, and instead of having realised 15*s.* in the pound upon the former sum there would be practically nothing upon the latter amount. Mr. Warden's debt of £15,000 had been increased

to £21,000, or, including interest, to £25,000, and upon which about 3*s.* in the pound would be realised, instead of 7*s.*6*d.* upon the lesser amount. The debt of Gill had been increased (with interest) to £6,360, and instead of realising 15*s.* in the pound upon the former there would be a less dividend upon the latter amount. The debt of Fish had been increased from £615 to £3,800, and instead of receiving 20*s.* in the pound upon the former it appeared there would be a trifle more than 6*s.* in the pound upon the latter amount. The debt of Gotch, amount £4,557, valued at 5*s.* in the pound in 1852, had since realised 10*d.* in the pound. The profits of the bank since 1852 had been about £7,000, its losses £57,000. Mr. Macpherson's debt was allowed to increase after it was estimated to be worth 15*s.* in the pound, on his repeated representations that he had great expectations from certain patents and mines, as also from relatives. Mr. Macpherson left the country in 1853 for Belgium, for the purpose of benefiting his estate. After that time he drew money frequently, generally promising in his letters payment, and ending with requests for more money, and which requests were acceded to. Mr. Macpherson held a curacy of the value of £120 per year; he had also an income of about £200 a-year as a chaplain for the East India Company. Beyond this income he did not know that he possessed any income or property except his furniture, which had realized £200. Mr. Macpherson appeared to communicate with the bank unreservedly when in Belgium, and he was trusted to this enormous amount on his representations that he had property in Belgium and means to pay everybody. Mr. Macpherson mentioned particularly a patent as being of great value. On being pressed to recollect the title of this patent, the bankrupt, after scratching his head for some time in a vain effort to do so, and receiving an exhortation to make a further effort, said it was a patent for deodorizing manure. (Laughter.)

Mr. Linklater—He wrote for money nearly every day, did he not?

The Commissioner—Such a customer was enough to ruin any bank.

In continuation of his examination the bankrupt said,—Macpherson stated that the right of deodorizing the sewerage of certain towns had been conceded to him. They never sent any one to make inquiry in respect to the value of the patent, and they relied entirely on his statements. (Laughter.) He constantly represented that it was important that no suspicion should be thrown upon him, and they never took any trouble to ascertain whether his representations were correct. They relied entirely upon his statements. He generally drew £20 or £50 at a time, and occasionally as large a sum as £200.

Mr. Linklater—He seems to have been drawing since 1852 at the rate of somewhere about £5,000 a year.

The bankrupt said, it was not so much at first, but during the last year or two they had advanced him £12,000 or £13,000. (A laugh.) He constantly represented that he was about to remit large amounts, but notwithstanding those representations he went on drawing still. They (the bankers) received the proceeds of his furniture before he left. He had not heard that Macpherson had been suspended from his clerical functions since his departure to superintend the deodorizing patent; he did not believe that he had; he believed him to be a perfectly honest man, although he was a rash man. Very possibly something might yet be coming to the estate from Macpherson, as he had since the bankruptcy represented that he yet could pay everybody. (Laughter.) Macpherson had some mines abroad, but no one had ever seen them. Mr. Harding, as acting for the creditors, had been part of the way to institute inquiries; he did not, however, complete the journey, having received information on his way that

the mines were not of sufficient value to pay his travelling expenses. Warden's was an active account. (A laugh.) By active account he meant that subsequent to 1852 he paid in as well as drew out considerable amounts. The latter, however, were generally the larger amounts, the account having increased from £15,000 to £21,000. They pressed Warden for payment, but they never took any proceedings against him. They arrested his account, however, about a year before their stoppage. It was, no doubt, partly from the fear of it becoming known that they had allowed Warden to incur a debt of so large an amount to the bank that they did not press for payment. The same reason applied to Macpherson's, Gill's, and other cases. The knowledge of such facts might occasion a run on the bank. Some of their customers were the trustees of various benevolent and other institutions, including working men's clubs. Deposits were received to the last and notes issued to the last. On the 8th of June they resolved to stop. The debts owing amounted to £128,000, of which about £100,000 were owing by the bank. His brother and himself had for some time previously conferred as to the position of affairs, and they could not close their eyes to the fact that they were in a bad position, and that in the event of Macpherson's debt being bad, they were insolvent. The bad debts since 1852 amounted to £52,000. There was a debt of £7,160 owing by Samuel Thomson in 1852. Upon that there had been subsequently a loss of £5,000. Depositors were never informed of the state of affairs. Did not know where Macpherson was now. He knew in July, 1856, that Warden's debt was bad to the extent of £15,000, exclusive of about £5,000 owing for interest. Warden's estate would pay about 2*s.* 8*d.* in the pound. The gross profits of the bank since 1852 had been £7,426, but if there were deducted therefrom the interest charged upon accounts that now turned out to be bad there were no profits, while the expenses exceeded £5,000. Several hundred pounds were expended in improvements of the bank premises shortly before its stoppage.

At this point the further proceedings were adjourned and resumed on the 22nd May, when—

Mr. Thomas H. Goteh was further examined, and stated that since 1852 the interest charged by the bank upon debts which had turned out bad had been £8,300, while the gross profits were only £7,000, including the said interest. He joined the business in 1825. The net profits of the manufactory and the tanning, in 1853, were £3.861, and in 1854 they were £4.527. In 1855 there was an increase in the price of leather, and the profits were very considerably less—about £1,000 a year.

A large file of letters written by the Rev. Mr. Macpherson to the bankrupts was here produced. The Commissioner observed that if they were all read there was no chance of the case being got through before the long vacation. Mr. Lewis proposed to read such extracts as suited his purpose.

Mr. Linklater thought the observation a very candid one. It would shorten the proceedings if he (Mr. Linklater) were to adopt the same course. This suggestion was objected to, but after some discussion it was acted upon.

The first letter, dated March 15, 1853, set forth that the Rev. Mr. Macpherson had got very comfortable apartments at Brussels; the second, dated March 23, 1853, that he was happy to say everything promised very well. He had got introduced to an English gentleman who had much to do with a great many of the Continental gas-works, and who thought so highly of his (Mr. Macpherson's) inventions that he was assisting him with all his influence. The next letter, dated April 11, 1853, says:—"I have this day drawn upon you for £40, which completes my purchase of the

Belgian, Dutch, Austrian, Bavarian and Saxon patents, with all patents of addition, so that I am now sole proprietor of seven patents for the purification of gas." On the 13th of May, 1853, he wrote that the absence of the king for three weeks had prevented his getting another patent. Again on the 4th of July the rev. gentleman wrote as follows from Brussels:—"I will now give you a list of the inventions and patents I am in possession of, and I can only say that I shall be more unfortunate than any patentee has ever yet been if they do not realise considerably more than my debt to you. They are,—1st, purifying gas; 2nd, improvements in certain machinery; 3rd, improvements in disinfecting sewers and other drains, and converting the contents thereof to useful purposes; 4th, improved gas burners; 5th, improved gas lamp. Three of these, viz., Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are valuable patents, but, as they are not completed, I cannot prudently write more fully upon them. The other two are smaller matters, but still they may realise a considerable sum."

Mr. Linklater—The letter also contains this passage;—"I feel extreme delicacy in drawing upon you for any sum beyond what I can place in your hands, but I cannot at present help it, and, indeed, all probability of being able to pay you would be lost if I were to refrain from travelling and publishing prospectuses and incurring other incidental expenses, which I cannot afford out of my £150 a-year pension. . . . I have this day drawn upon you for £20."

A letter of the 28th of September, 1853, was next read, in which Mr. Macpherson writes:—"I am truly happy to inform you that I have conditionally sold for £1,000 my French patent for double fish-tail gas burner. (Laughter.) . . . I have also had an offer for my French sewage and manure patent. I have asked £10,000 for this, or, if a company is formed, I have asked the same sum—£2,000 in cash and £8,000 in paid-up shares. My terms have been accepted, requiring a month to decide, and I have little doubt that the patent will be sold."

Mr. Linklater—The first line of this letter commences with, "I have this day drawn upon you." (Laughter.)

A letter was next read dated 17th October, 1853, in which Mr. Macpherson writes:—"In the meantime I must look to you for a continuance of the kind support you have hitherto given me. Of one thing you may rest assured, that I should not continue to draw upon you did I not see the most certain prospect of being in a reasonable time able to pay you all."

Mr. Linklater—He says in this letter that he is going to take out a patent in Belgium for making peat charcoal. (Laughter.) £14 worth of this charcoal, he calculates, when mixed with night soil, will make upwards of six tons of manure equal to guano, and realize a clear profit of £10 per ton. (Renewed laughter.) This letter he concludes, instead of commences with, "I have this day drawn upon you." (A laugh)

Another letter was next referred to in which Mr. Macpherson expresses an expectation of getting something considerable from an Irish Amelioration Society, in connexion with a large Irish Sewage Manure Company. A large capitalist in France had also offered to form a company for France with a capital of 3,500,000f. (£140,000) in shares and a working capital of £20,000, to give him (Macpherson) £40,000 in shares for the patent, and to appoint him director of the company, with a salary of not less than 6,000f. a-year, and a commission of 5 per cent. upon all business. Thus they (Messrs. Gotch) would see that he was certain of a beneficial arrangement. The gas purifying patent was in this letter also stated to be in good train. Other patents, "under God's continued

blessing, would also turn out well, for he had every reason to be grateful, as, without His blessing, things could not have gone on as they had." He had "this day drawn upon them for £40." A letter of the 7th of January, 1854, dated Paris, sets forth that Mr. Macpherson encloses a draft on account of his manure and gas purifying patents, which were about to be shown to the minister of the interior, and that he had obtained sufficient interest to get the ear of the Emperor for the former. Both M. Meile and M. de Pariente were quite sure that he could obtain an audience of the Emperor. Again he wrote from Paris on the 25th of February, 1854, that he would immediately remit £840, together with all other sums he had drawn, — his large patents were now so certain of turning out well. Again, he wrote on the 24th of May, 1854, that although he had been disappointed of receiving the money, his prospects from the patents were brightening every day. He really felt delicacy in continually drawing and remitting nothing, but he gave them his honour that he would on no account continue to take advantage of their confidence did he not see his way very clearly in a little time to the possession of property more than sufficient to pay his debt, "even were it to please God to take him before the debt was actually paid."

Mr. Linklater—This letter, I notice, as is the case indeed with almost every letter out of some hundreds, commences with—"My dear sirs,—I have this day drawn upon you." (Laughter.)

Again, Mr. Macpherson wrote on the 17th of June, 1854, that the purchase of charcoal caused his drafts to be heavy. The purchase of a mill to grind the charcoal had been effected. This and the rent of premises for the preparation of the manure all required money. The prospect of forming the large company had unfortunately fallen through; still, he had not been idle, and his prospects were now very bright. He had two drains containing 1,000 tons of fœccal matter, which would require the same quantity of charcoal, and which, when sold, would produce £6,000. He had innumerable orders for manure as soon as it could be made. Again he wrote on the 15th of July—

Mr. Linklater—Commencing with "I have this day drawn upon you." (A laugh.)

The letter did thus commence, and set forth that the draft was principally for charcoal, which could only be obtained during the months of June, July and August. He had no doubt his drafts would be much reduced ere long; in the meantime ready money was indispensable. It was their (Messrs. Gotch's) interest, as well as his own, that he should not risk the failure of his undertakings by being backward in drawing. (Laughter.) Again, Mr. Macpherson wrote on the 27th of September, 1854, giving a glowing prospect of his numerous patents, and stating that he would never have robbed them, which he certainly should have been doing, if he had not felt every day more and more confident of the complete success of his undertaking, but which undertaking, "under the continued blessing of Him without whose aid nothing could do well, would yet be eminently successful." Again he wrote (September 30th, 1854), "All I owe you is perfectly safe."

Mr. Linklater—Commencing, as usual, with "I have this day drawn upon you." (A laugh.)

Again, Mr. Macpherson wrote on October 24th, 1854:—"I am only sowing what will return an abundant harvest, and it is this certainty that makes me draw upon you without hesitation. I once more say solemnly, as a gentleman and a clergyman, if I did not see my way clearly to repay you I would at once say so." On the 16th of December, 1854, he wrote,

holding out expectations of remittances of £1,100 per fortnight, and on the 8th of January, 1855, he wrote :—"I am now on my way to the Ardinnis to visit my lead mines, which I am happy to say are every day becoming more valuable." On the 29th of March, 1855, he wrote that he had plenty of iron ore ready for delivery, but the winter had been so severe in the mining districts as to render the cross roads impassable. From his lead mine at Weissenbach he had the most satisfactory accounts. He could not wish matters to be proceeding better. Again he wrote on the 20th of June, 1855 :—"You are perfectly safe."

Mr. Linklater—In the same letter he writes :—"You will not wonder at my feeling anxious, because it is not my own money that I am dealing with."

Reference was next made by Mr. Lewis to another letter in which Mr. Macpherson estimated his lead mines to produce a net income of £2,000 a-year. "Gentlemen of experience who had visited his various works said that in a few years he must be a man of large fortune." He had "contracts over miles of mineral grounds which he could work when he liked." In July, 1855, he wrote that he had asked £20,000 for one only of his mines. Upon receiving this information Messrs. Gotch wrote to ask that it might be transferred to them as security for their claim. The reply, however, was, that "although he was not reluctant to give them security, any step that would damage his position would be his ruin," and the security was not obtained. "If they were on the spot they should see everything. There were, however, such a set of people to deal with round about the mines that caution was particularly necessary. (A laugh.) All his (Mr. Macpherson's) mines were good, and all his works were under the direction of the government engineers of the provinces in which they were situated." He drew upon them that day for nothing more than was absolutely necessary to protect their (Messrs. Gotch and Gotch's) interest. (Laughter.) Letters were next read to show that Mr. Macpherson had held out that he had become the possessor of valuable slate quarries in addition to the previous lists of gas and manure patents and his iron and lead mines. More money was, however, still required. "You are aware, my dear sirs," writes the Rev. Mr. Macpherson, in a letter dated Brussels, January 26, 1856, "that all my mines and quarries were unopened, and therefore required outlay before they could make returns." He was working a very rich mine at Porcheresse, again wrote the reverend gentleman, and he could assure them all that his works were progressing as favourably as possible, and could not fail, shortly, to make good returns. In March, 1856, he wrote :—"I am more anxious on your account than my own, and it is with that view that I now draw upon you. In short, my dear sirs, I can once again assure you that all my works are on the eve of becoming exceedingly profitable."

Mr. Linklater called attention to this passage in a letter of the 11th of March, 1856 :—"I can assure you that were I not to pursue the course I am doing I should be ruined, and you would of course be larger losers. My credit is at present high here, and for your sake as well as my own I must keep it up."

On the 9th of March, 1856, Mr. Macpherson wrote :—"I am determined that this summer shall, under God's blessing, produce satisfactory returns. We have orders from the quarries for 123,000 slates, and the prospects elsewhere are equally promising." On the 13th of June, 1856, he wrote :—"You will now, my dear sirs, perceive how important to me as well as to yourselves has been your ready support of me, and my reasons for so vigorously of late carrying on all my works." On the 20th of June, 1856,

he wrote—"I have this day drawn upon you for £165. It is the largest draft that I have made upon you for a length of time, and I can confidently say it is the last large draft I shall have occasion for. I have now very large contracts for the delivery of stone to the Government and the Luxembourg Railway (a laugh), and the profit is large." In a letter of the 2nd of August, 1856, Mr. Macpherson writes:—"You will perceive by the address of this that I am in London. I came over with Mons. Moorceannt and Mons. Graesiwinckle, two Dutch gentlemen, who in conjunction with myself are endeavouring to form a company to cut a canal from Hanover to Holland. If we succeed I shall receive £3,000. The Namur affair will, I hope, soon be concluded." On the 26th of November, 1856, Mr. Macpherson wrote from Brussels as follows:—"When I read all the accounts of fraud, &c., in the papers I cannot express what I feel for you; but my dear and valued friends, you need not fear, I will never deceive nor defraud you," On the 28th of March, 1857, he wrote:—"I have this day drawn upon you for £140." Other letters mentioned that one of the slate quarries would produce 3,000,000 of slates a-year, and the writer expresses regret that on one occasion it had been necessary to incur some expense in flags and ribands. (A laugh.) On the 5th of May, 1857, he wrote that,—"He had been obliged to draw for another £140, but this, he confidently believed, would be the last large draft he should have occasion to make."

Mr. Linklater now called upon Mr. Lewis to produce a letter written by the bankrupts to Mr. Macpherson, on the 9th of July, 1857, informing him that they had stopped payment, and enclosing his dishonoured cheque for £32.

Mr. Lewis said he was unable to give the desired letter, but he could furnish letters subsequently written by Mr. Macpherson, and some passages in which, for transparent impudence, were probably without any equal.

Letters were then read, from which the following are extracts:—

"Brussels, June 12, 1857.

"My dear Sirs,—I need not assure you of the grief your letter of the 9th instant, handed me by your nephew yesterday, has occasioned me, both on your account and my own. It has placed me in the most deplorable position, because without means to carry on my works I am ruined, and all your advances must be lost, and that just at a time when I was on the eve of deriving benefit from them. I am afraid I shall not have time to-day to make out an inventory of my property, but I will do so to-morrow. In the meantime I may urge upon you the necessity, for your own sake more than for mine, of your making every possible effort to aid me with £1,000 to bring to perfection my lead mine at Wisenbach and my slate quarry at Haut Martelange. (Great laughter.) . . . At this moment £80 would be of the utmost importance, I could then carry out the manufacture of phosphate of lime, of which I can dispose of any quantity to the London Manure Company (a laugh), at £5 per ton, the cost being only £2 10*s.* per ton. It is by my patent press that I can do this.

"Your deeply afflicted, but ever grateful,

"A. MACPHERSON."

"Brussels, June 15, 1857.

"My dear Sirs . . . . . I must now, my dear Sirs, offer you my advice as to the best course you can pursue to avoid the sad termination to all my efforts, and consequent serious loss to yourselves. First of all, then, leave me perfectly undisturbed. (A laugh.) The slightest interference on your

part will to a certainty blight every prospect, and sacrifice every shilling you have here. . . . . Let me in the most serious manner warn you against any step that will shake my credit. I assure you, upon the honour of a gentlemen, that your prospects of payment are perfectly good, if you will leave the matter in my hands, and support me to the extent necessary. I am now entirely without means, and as my last draft on you was protested my bankers here would give me no more. (A laugh.) I can only add that I am greatly afflicted.

"Gratefully and faithfully yours,
"A. MACPHERSON."

"Brussels, June 17.

"My dear Sirs,—I write you again in the most urgent manner to beseech of you to send me £200 immediately. . . . I am willing to give everything to you if you will give me a discharge for my debt, and you can then carry everything on in the way you think best. But if you will take my advice—and it is the advice of my most confidential friends here—leave every thing in my hands for the present, only do send me the cash.

"Most truly and gratefully yours,
"A. MACPHERSON."

After several further letters imploring the bankrupts to send him "that little sum which he had requested," and "trusting the Lord would spare him to do that justice to them which he so earnestly desired," the rev. gentleman proceeds to state that the gentleman who had been sent to him on behalf of the bankrupt's estate had almost charged him with having secreted money instead of applying it to any speculations. This he most solemnly denied. That he had been too rash and sanguine he could not for one moment deny, but that he had appropriated one single shilling to forming a fund for himself or to any other purpose than his open labours he solemnly denied, "fully and firmly believing that there is a Judge before whom he must appear, and to whom all hearts are open, and from whom no secrets are hid." The gentleman (Mr. R. P. Harding) who had come over from the creditors, had a very strong opinion as to the impossibility of recovering any portion of the large sum. He, however, anticipated a more favourable result. They thought that he should not have lived beyond his own income, but he was recommended by more than one friend to make a highly respectable appearance in order to give the public authorities the idea that he would carry out the concessions of the mines, sewers, &c, that he was working. He had also been recommended to entertain the higher functionaries in several departments. This advice, however, he never followed. He merely took a larger house for appearance's sake. In conclusion, he felt that he had been harshly and unjustly dealt with in receiving such sweeping condemnation of property which had never been seen. He might have been able, if let alone, to sell his lead mines and slate quarries for a handsome sum to a society for the exploitation of all the minerals in Luxembourg. (Great laughter.) His conduct must be left to a higher tribunal than that of man to decide.

The bankrupt said that on the rev. gentlemen leaving this country in 1853 to retrieve his position he owed the bank £3,700, and that to recover that loss and avoid publicity, they had, on the representations now given, allowed his account to be overdrawn to the amount of £24,900. Mr. Macpherson was married, but without family, and they believed the debt could be ultimately recovered. Warden's debt of £15,000 in 1852 had been increased to £21,000, or, including interest, £25,000 on the same principle.

The Commissioner—What is Macpherson's debt of £24,969 expected to produce?

Mr. Lawrance—The assignees have offered to accept a sum of £2,000 in full liquidation, but they do not expect it will ever produce a single shilling.

The Commissioner—Macpherson does not appear at any time to have had any resources.

Mr. Linklater—No. His incumbency (Rothwell) was of the value of £150 a-year, out of which, on his leaving the country, he had to pay a curate £100 a year.

The Commissioner—What could have inspired all this confidence from the bankers? Would anybody else in the neighbourhood have trusted him?

A Voice—No; nobody.

The bankrupt, in continuation of his examination, said, it had been found impracticable to wind-up the case out of court. He had never lived at more than £600 a-year, and he had five children.

John Davis Gotch deposed that he had attended almost entirely to the manufacturing. He opened nearly the whole of Macpherson's letters, but he seldom read them. He did not know the amount owing by him (Macpherson), Warden, Gotch, Gill, Cooke, and others. He left the bank to the management of his brother. He believed they were solvent to the last. He would not swear he had never looked at Macpherson's debt. Since the bankruptcy a Government contract had been transferred by him to another party (not his assignees), in which he expected to share the benefits. He knew the bank to be insolvent to the extent of £16,000 in 1852, but, taking into account a surplus on the other businesses, the partners were then solvent, having a surplus of £6,000. He had no belief at all as to the amount owing by Warden at a given date.

Mr. Linklater—Surely you, a banker, ascertained the amount due by your customers.

The bankrupt—I did not know the amount. I thought his account was overdrawn £2,000 or £3,000. I knew Macpherson was a debtor for a large sum on leaving the country, and that it had subsequently been increased; but if any one had asked me if his debt amounted to £10,000 only I should have said not.

The Commissioner—You must take the consequences of having been grossly negligent of your duties.

The bankrupt—I was not aware that £15,000 of Warden's debt had in 1856 been admitted to be a loss to that amount. I was tacitly an assenting party to the advances to Macpherson and others. The returns at the manufactory amounted to £70,000 a-year. This I managed, and I left the management of the bank to my brother.

Mr. Lawrance addressed the Court. Truth was stranger than fiction. The correspondence of this bank with the Rev. A. Macpherson, a clerical refugee indulging in the wildest schemes and speculations, was without a parallel. The rev. gentleman's letters were cloaked in the thinnest possible veil. The case was either one of insanity or dishonesty, and there was no symptom of the former in the bankrupts, if they might judge from their examination. In one year and 11 months they had allowed this refugee divine—a scandal to his order—to increase his debt from £10,000 £25,000, without having from him a shilling's worth of security. Surely neither the Western Bank of Scotland, nor the Northumberland and Durham District Bank, if they could but get an investigation into their management, for the enlightenment and warning of the public, would develope anything so bad as this. While he acquitted Macpherson of

having been a deliberate and designing knave, and the bankrupts of having been guilty of any fraudulent complicity in the matter, it was impossible that any sane man could have been misled by Macpherson's letters. The bankrupts allowed him thus to play with the money of their depositors, because they were afraid to stop. The case was analogous to that of the banker Rufford, and the certificates of the bankrupts must be refused. The letters of the refugee divine were somewhat remarkably couched. Like the horseleech, he said "Give, give," and the bankrupts did give, but it was the money of depositors.

In reply to questions from the court,

Mr. Linklater said, the bankrupts kept two accounts with the bank—one as manufacturers and the other as brewers. He believed these accounts were generally overdrawn to the extent of several thousand pounds, but the books should be examined before the court gave judgment.

The Commissioner—I should wish to know how this really was.

Mr. Linklater addressed the court. The bankrupts were not young men. They had grown grey as bankers and men of business. The temporary suspension of the bank in 1825, although the creditors were then paid in full, ought to have induced caution. The multitude of irons in the fire ought, also, to have both made them acquainted with every kind of business, and induced circumspection. Allowing for a sum of £3,000 due to their father's estate, they knew that they had not in 1852 a larger surplus than £3,000; but it was quite clear from the position of Macpherson's, Warden's, and other debts, that they must have known that they were at that time really insolvent to the extent of £12,000. Why was the yearly stock-taking account not to be had after 1852 or 1853? They knew that they were insolvent. Still they continued to receive the money of depositors, and issue their own promissory notes. It was a very singular and suspicious circumstance that, although they had produced no less than 400 of Macpherson's letters, and those generally of no short length, they had not furnished so much as a single copy of one of their letters in reply. The interests of society required that bankers should not be allowed thus to squander the money of their confiding depositors without receiving a due punishment. It was impossible not to perceive that the bank had been kept open since 1852 for the mere convenience and purposes of the bankrupts themselves. Since 1852 they had been squandering the money of their depositors at the rate of £8,000 a-year. Those depositors included no less than sixty sick clubs and benefit societies, who were creditors for £8,000, and to executors and twelve trustees, whose claims amounted to £30,000. It was impossible to conceive anything more wicked than keeping open a bank, not for the legitimate purposes of banking, but because it supplied the proprietors with capital. The misery occasioned by the failure of a bank was incalculable, and it had been held that the bankruptcy laws in respect to bankers ought to be expounded beneficially to creditors, in order to discourage recklessness and wickedness. He could not but characterise the case as worse than it had been considered by Mr. Lawrance, who had acted as solicitor for the bankrupts, and he called for a total refusal of the certificates of both the bankrupts, and that without protection.

Mr. Lawrance said, he must, in reply to one remark of Mr. Linklater, be permitted to observe that he had presented the petition to this Court for the bankrupts' creditors, it being found impraticable to wind up the estate out of it.

Mr. Linklater—The fact still remains. You are now the solicitor for the assignees. You were solicitor for the bankrupts. If you will provoke the observation, I cannot help it.

A further adjournment was then ordered.

THE DARTFORD AND GRAVESEND BANK—IN RE HILLS AND HILLS.

A private meeting in the case of these bankers was appointed to take place before Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque on the 19th May, but in consequence of the announcement that Mr. Hills, sen., died on the previous Monday, the meeting was adjourned.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY.

On the 1st May a very numerous meeting in this matter was held before Vice-Chancellor Kindersley, at his chambers, to consider the appointment of official liquidators or official managers, to investigate and wind-up the affairs of this bank, which lately failed, with liabilities amounting to £2,300,000. There were five propositions before the Vice-Chancellor, and their relative eligibility to fill the appointment was fully argued *pro* and *con* by counsel. Messrs. Elliot, Bainbridge, and Fairs, who had been appointed interim liquidators by the Court of Chancery, were proposed as permanent official managers, in conjunction with Mr. Coleman, the accountant.

Mr. Lewis and Mr. Roxburgh objected, on behalf of shareholders and creditors, to the appointment of these gentlemen, and more particularly to Mr. Fairs, who, being a shareholder, ought not to hold the position of official liquidator of the company's affairs; and, further, upon the ground that he was one of the committee of the bank, and whose conduct would have to be called in question for having, contrary to the facts, represented to the shareholders that there would be a surplus of £46,000 after discharging all the liabilities of the bank. There was an objection also to Mr. Coleman being appointed in conjunction with these gentlemen, inasmuch as he had already been employed to report on the state of the bank's affairs, and because he was accountant to the Bank of England, who were considerable creditors. As regarded the appointment of the three liquidators, it might further become a question whether the proceedings they had already taken were such as the court ought to adopt. The Newcastle and other shareholders, whom he represented to a large extent, objected to the continuance in office of these gentlemen, of whose proceedings since they had been appointed they knew nothing. They desired the appointment of a perfectly independent party, totally unconnected with the bank, and with that view they proposed Mr. Harding, who had been appointed by the Court of Chancery in winding-up the Mary-le-bone, Royal British, and other banks. It was proposed to associate with Mr. Harding Mr. Bleckley, and one of the late liquidators. Several of the shareholders who had signed the proposition in favour of the appointment of the three liquidators were either large creditors or debtors of the bank, and consequently stood in an interested position; and the Bank of England and Scotland, who also supported them, were creditors respectively to the extent of £150,000 and £170,000.

Mr. Giffard, Mr. Freshfield and Mr. Field supported the appointment of Messrs. Elliot, Bainbridge and Fairs, with Mr. Coleman. They were not aware that the Bank of England were creditors fully secured, or that Mr.

Coleman was their official accountant. These gentlemen had for six months been engaged on the books, and knew the state of the affairs. The creditors supporting the appointment of Messrs. Elliot, Bainbridge and Fairs, in conjunction with Mr. Coleman, represented £937,000. The creditors supporting the appointment of Mr. Harding represented £86,885. Messrs. Harding and Wilson submitted a resolution of creditors in Sunderland representing £423,412 as a vote on their behalf, but the creditors who had individually signed for the purpose amounted to £55,082. The per centage of those shares that had paid the last call voting for the liquidators was 53 per cent., and for Messrs. Harding and Bleckley 22 per cent.

Messrs. Murray and Rymer supported the three liquidators with Messrs. Milner, Cookson, and others, representing creditors and shareholders.

Three other gentlemen, Mr. W. Brown, Mr. J. H. Jay, and Mr. T. Gray, having also been proposed to fill the appointment,

The Vice-Chancellor inquired whether the liquidators had received any assets ?

Mr. Elliot—Yes, a considerable amount. They are lodged in the Bank of England ; there are no assets in the hands of the liquidators themselves. The money is paid into the bank as it is received.

The Vice-Chancellor ultimately appointed Mr. J. Fogg Elliot, Durham ; Mr. Wm. Bainbridge, barrister, Newcastle-upon-Tyne ; and Mr. Joseph Fairs, chemist, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to be the official liquidators.

On the 17th and 18th May, Mr. Pugh, chief clerk to Vice-Chancellor Kindersley, held a court in the offices of the bank, for the purpose of fixing the list of contributories to the calls to be made for the payment of the creditors of the company. Of the parties connected with the management of this unfortunate concern, Mr. W. B. Ogden, managing director, is entered on the list for 100 shares, Mr. Bigge 125 shares, and the executor of the late Mr. Bigge, of Linden, 3,375 shares; Mr. J. Hawks, 1,200, his relative, the Rev. W. Hawks, 1,820, Mr. Jonathan Richardson 560, and Mr. George Ridley, M P., 555 shares ; Mr. J. Sillick 700 shares, and Mr. R. P. Philipson, the solicitor to the company 70 shares. The largest single shareholder in the company is Mr. W. Mountain, of Newcastle, who holds 2,290 shares. The call made upon the shareholders is £35, which, with a call of £5 made after the bank stopped, makes £40 a share that is deemed necessary to be advanced to clear the bank of its liabilities. There are several widows and single women upon the list, and it is thought that the call, large as it is, will hardly pay the creditors in full. The amount of the deficiency is £1,191,000.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND.

The annual meeting of the proprietors was held on the 13th May, at the offices in Bishopsgate-street, J. N. Laurie, Esq., in the chair, on the motion of Lord Ernest Bruce, M.P.

The manager, Mr. Daniel Robertson, having read the advertisement convening the meeting,

The Chairman said that ten years had passed over since he first had the honour to occupy the chair at their annual meetings. Ten years was a most important period in the history of nations ; and he might instance the period from 1790 to 1800, which occupied a greater space on their records than many centuries of ordinary nature. But when they reflected

They were able to congratulate the proprietary on the fact th
perity of the National Provincial Bank of England had kept pa
prosperity of that period, though it might be greater or less c
depending, as it must, on the fluctuations of the seasons, or th
foreign countries. He was happy to say that the affairs of th
throughout exhibited a satisfactory state of amelioration and
(Applause.) It had struck him the other day that he could n
than give to the proprietors a little statement of the progress
bank during the last ten years, by which they would see there h
been a gradual increase of profits, but there had also been a
increase of the reserved fund; so that while they had divided, a
entitled to do, a certain share of profits, they had not neglected
men, to keep a nest-egg, so that whenever the time should co
he did not believe it would come) when they should require to
selves of extraordinary resources, they could do so. He thoug
quite right in keeping up that fund, when they considered
depended on increased business and increased prosperity.
filled the chair in the year 1848, when they paid a dividend of
the reserved fund being then £86,930 7*s.* 2*d.* In 1849 the re
was increased, with a similar dividend. In 1850 the reserve
£96,572, the dividend being the same, 6 per cent.; in 1851 th
was the same, and the reserved fund was £103,108; in 1852
dividend of 6 per cent., with a bonus of 2 per cent., the re
being £107,396; in 1853 they paid a dividend of 6 per cent., w
of 2 per cent., the reserved fund being £114,290; in 1854 t
dividend of 8 per cent., with a bonus of 4 per cent., the re
being then £133,449; in the year 1855 the dividend was 8 per
a bonus of 6 per cent., the reserved fund £162,890; in 1856 t
was 8 per cent., with a bonus of 8 per cent., the reserve fun
£175,195; in 1857 the dividend was 8 per cent., with 1
bonus (cheers,) the reserve fund then standing at the sum o
which was set apart in government securities. After deduc
bonus of 10 per cent. and the dividend of 8 per cent., there w
the sum of £12,047, which, being added to the reserve fund, wa

confidence of the public in this bank had not for one moment been shaken. He did not mean to say that the high rate of interest during the late monetary crisis had not had some influence, because it naturally induced many persons to draw out money and to invest it when they could get that higher interest; but no sooner was that rate lowered than money rushed in much faster than it had been withdrawn, and the difficulty now was how to employ the money profitably. He thought it could not be made too public that the confidence which had been reposed in this bank was due to its constitution. He was convinced that many of the failures of joint-stock banks were attributable to undue attempts on the part of those who managed them to help themselves. He did not question the right of directors keeping accounts with the bank of which they were the directors, but in the present state of this board the directors had no interest in any arrangements with their customers. (Applause.) He had stated last year that he was the only one who then kept an account with the bank, from circumstances which he explained. His colleagues sat there a perfectly disinterested jury. He could hardly recollect any one case in which they had had to decide upon the case of a private friend. In all instances they made their inquiries with great care, and they would, therefore, see that those great risks and hazards which had been incurred by other banks were not applicable to the case of the National Provincial Bank. It was only fair that he should bear his testimony to the zeal and ability with which the different officials of the company conducted their affairs. (Applause.) He was sure the meeting would excuse him if he bore willing testimony to the hon. gentlemen with whom he was associated in the direction. (Hear.) He was equally anxious to draw attention to the great ability with which the worthy manager conducted the business of the bank, surrounded as he was by an efficient and most zealous staff; but the efficiency of the staff depended in a great degree on the commander-in-chief. The hon. gentleman moved the adoption of the report, which he read, as follows:—

The present forms the twenty-fifth occasion upon which the directors have had the pleasure of submitting an annual report to the proprietors; and it is most gratifying to be able to record that, at the close of a quarter of a century, the National Provincial Bank steadily continues its progressive course, with the most solid proofs of increasing stability and success.

The directors have to inform the proprietors that the measure sanctioned by the annual general meeting of 1856, for the increase of the bank's capital, has been fully carried out. The second instalment on the new issue of shares, which became payable on 31st July last, was punctually met; the paid-up capital of the bank therefore now stands at £600,000, and the subscribed capital at £1,500,000.

Since the proprietors were last assembled, the country has passed through a season of great commercial vicissitude and trial. There was nothing, however, in the aspect of commercial affairs at the beginning of the year, to indicate the approach of the revulsion which preceded its close. Great activity and expansion continued to be the predominant features in every branch of external trade; and although the rate of interest ranged comparatively high, yet it did not appear to be much felt, while the supply of capital was equal to the demand. In April the Bank of England raised its rate of discount, but lowered it in June, and reduced it still further in July. To the mercantile and trading interest this reduction in the value of money gave confidence, which the prospects of a good harvest tended to confirm; and, with the exception of the Indian revolt, nothing occurred until October to damp the hopes that, up to this

period, were entertained of another year of national prosperity. But in October intelligence was received of a general financial crisis in America, which it was obvious would exercise the most disastrous influence upon the commercial relations of that country in England. Great distrust accordingly arose, especially in Liverpool and Glasgow; credit was contracted; the rate of interest rapidly advanced; the pressure for money became intense; and a succession of banking and mercantile failures occurred. Government at last interposed, the Banking Act of 1844 was once more suspended, and confidence gradually but slowly returned.

The directors are happy to state that the storm which thus swept with destructive force over the commercial community was comparatively unfelt in the rural districts. In the latter, alarm no doubt prevailed, local trade was checked, and agricultural produce underwent some depreciation; but these effects were happily unattended by any wide-spread disaster.

Notwithstanding the adverse circumstances adverted to, the extra risk which in consequence attended banking operations, and the loss of interest on large unproductive cash reserves, the directors are happy to be enabled to place before the proprietors the following statement of accounts for 1857, which exhibits even more favourable results than those of the previous year.

January 1, 1857.—Rest, or undivided profits, at 31st December, 1856, as exhibited at annual meeting in May, 1857				£237,833	12 1
Less—					
Bonus declared and paid in 1587, out of this amount ...				52,500	0 0
Reserved fund set apart in Government securities... ...				185,333	12 1
Dec. 31. Net profits of 1857, after making allowance for bad and doubtful debts				117,047	3 0
Making				£302,380	15 1
Deduct—					
Dividend on company's stock for June, 1857...	£21,000	0	0		
Ditto for December, 1857, paid January, 1858...	24,000	0	0		
				45,000	0 0
Leaving rest, or undivided profits, 31st Dec., 1857 ...				£257,380	15 1

Out of the profits of last year the directors propose to pay a bonus of 10 per cent. on the whole of the paid-up capital, thereby including the last instalment on the new shares received in July last. After deduction of the bonus and dividend for 1857, there will remain the sum of £12,047 3*s.* to be added to the reserve fund, which will then stand at £197,380 15*s.* 1*d.*

The bonus will be paid as usual in July, along with the dividend to be declared for the half-year ending 30th June next.

The profits thus divided among the proprietors for 1857 will, therefore, be £14,013 8*s.* more than those distributed in 1856; while the balance carried to the reserved fund is also £2,000 more than the addition then made to it.

In November last an eligible opportunity occurred of extending the company's operations to Durham, of which the directors availed themselves by opening an agency there in connection with the branch at Darlington.

The directors have only further to add that they have presented the officers of the company with a bonus of 10 per cent. upon their salaries, as a mark of approbation of their zealous and successful services during the past year, of which they hope the proprietors will approve.

The following directors go out of office by rotation, but being eligible for re-election, offer themselves accordingly, viz. :—The Right Hon. Lord E. Bruce, R. Bell, Esq., and W. J. Maxwell, Esq.

A vacancy has occurred in the direction by the resignation of Thomas F. Wilson, Esq., to supply which the following qualified proprietor has offered himself as a candidate, viz. :—Henry Paull, Esq., M.P.

Major Moore seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The three retiring directors were severally re-elected, and Henry Paull, Esq., M.P., was elected to the vacant seat at the board. A sum of £1,000 was voted to the directors for their services during the past year. A resolution was carried with acclamation awarding £1,000 a year to the directors in addition to their present remuneration.

The Chairman returned thanks, and the usual complimentary vote to the chairman and directors were carried with the most perfect cordiality, and the meeting then broke up.

PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND.

The thirty-third annual meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held on the 21st of May, at the offices, in Broad-street, City; Oliver Farrer, Esq., in the chair.

The Secretary having read the advertisement convening the meeting,

The Chairman stated that the usual course of proceeding was at once to re-elect (if such should be the pleasure of the proprietors) the directors who retired by rotation, whose names were Matthew Wolverley Attwood, Bonamy Dobree, jun., and Elliot M'Naghten, Esqrs., and the Right Hon. Sir John Young, Bart,

The names of these gentlemen having been severally moved and seconded, they were unanimously re-elected.

The Chairman notified that a vacancy had occurred in the direction by the death of their respected friend Sir Robert Campbell, and that only one candidate had been proposed to fill that vacancy—namely, Mr. Beaumont Hankey, whose name he would put to the meeting.

The motion having been seconded, Mr. B. Hankey was declared elected a director.

The Secretary then proceeded to read the following report :—

The directors have much pleasure in reporting for the information of the proprietors that the business of the bank for the year which ended on the 27th of March last was most satisfactory in its results. With improved agricultural management the prosperity of Ireland continues to advance, and the influence of this on the bank's business has been very perceptible during several past years. Since last harvest the price of grain has declined, and farming profits have consequently been less, but no material injury to the general interests of the country can be said to have arisen from that cause.

There was, as usual, considerable variation in the reports from different districts regarding the harvest of 1857; but, though the grain crops are believed to have been under an average in acreable produce, they were, for the most part, of good quality, and well saved. The potatoe crop, however, was much less productive than it had been during several previous years.

In a commercial point of view the past year must be remembered as one of peculiar difficulty. Numerous mercantile and bank failures took place in the United States of America, followed by similar misfortunes in this country, and throughout Europe. Some failures occurred in the linen and corn trades in Ireland; but, considering the severity of the pressure elsewhere, it was withstood in Ireland in a manner which showed the general soundness of trade in that country, and the satisfactory condition of the banking interests.

The stoppage of some joint-stock banks in England and Scotland in the month of November, when the commercial crisis in England existed in its utmost severity, occasioned demands for gold upon all the banks in Ireland.

These demands were, however, everywhere promptly met, and very soon subsided, and the gold immediately began to flow back again to the banks, and it was satisfactory to remark that the demand while it continued did not extend to the commercial classes, who evinced no symptoms of distrust.

Before submitting to the meeting the usual statement of accounts, the directors have to remark that circumstances which have lately come to their knowledge induce them on this occasion to mention that the additional dividends which have been paid to the proprietors during the last few years, have been taken entirely out of the current profits of the bank; and as a peculiar legal interpretation has in some cases been given to the word bonus, as applied to those additional dividends, the directors think it better to discontinue the use of that word, and to designate future payments of a similar kind merely as additional or extraordinary dividends.

The attention of the meeting is now requested to the following statement:—

The account submitted to the last yearly general meeting in May, 1857, showed the amount of rest, or undivided profits, at 28th March, 1857, to be			£225,914	17 9
Out of which there were paid to the proprietors an extraordinary dividend of 6 per cent. at Midsummer, 1857, and a second extraordinary dividend of similar amount at Christmas, 1857, making together the sum of ...			64,800	0 0
Leaving a balance of... ...			161,114	17 9
And there has been further deducted the amount of two half-yearly dividends, paid to the proprietors as follows, viz.:—				
At Midsummer, 1857 ...	£21,600	0 0		
At Christmas, 1857	21,600	0 0		
Together			43,200	0 0
Leaving of the rest of last year a balance of			£117,914	17 9
To which there has been since added the amount of net profits for the year ending on the 27th, being the last Saturday of March, 1858, after deducting property tax, and providing for all bad and doubtful debts			116,468	13 3
Making the amount of rest, or undivided profits, at 27th March, 1858			£234,383	11 0

It may be remarked that the profits shown in the above account fully equal those of last year, which exceeded those of any previous year, but the proprietors will bear in mind that though this is attributable in some

degree to an increase of the bank's business, it must be considered as arising chiefly from the high rate of interest, and continued exemption from losses of importance.

It is with much gratification that the directors on this occasion present to the proprietors a state of affairs so satisfactory as is exhibited in the above account, and it is now their pleasing duty to intimate their intention to pay, in July next, an extraordinary dividend of equal amount to that paid at the same period last year, namely, 30*s.* on each £100 share, and 12*s.* on each £10 share. of the capital stock of the bank, in addition to the usual half-yearly dividend of 4 per cent., making the amount to be then paid £2 10*s.* on each £100 share, and £1 on each £10 share, for the half-year ending at Midsummer next; and they purpose also, as heretofore, to pay the property tax for the proprietors.

OLIVER FARRER, Chairman.

The Chairman said that the report which the proprietors had heard read needed on his part very few words in the way of commendation to secure its acceptance and approval. (Hear.) It was, perhaps, the best report that, during a period of thirty-three years, they had ever been prepared to lay before the proprietary. When they considered the extraordinary period which they had passed through, the results were such as hardly any reasonable man could have imagined or have anticipated. (Hear.) He should make very few observations on this occasion, because, to use a homely phrase, "good wine needed no bush;" and after the sample which had been produced he hoped the proprietors would be satisfied. All matters referred to in the report were really of an encouraging and pleasing nature. They were enabled to allude to the improved condition of Ireland in every respect; for though there had been a decline in the prices of agricultural produce, there was every reason to believe that there was no country in Europe, or he might say in the world, that enjoyed such quiet, comfort, and happiness. Ireland, as she was now, presented a beautiful comparison to what she was not many years since; and he hoped and trusted that that prosperity and contentment would long continue, because he could not but flatter himself that the introduction of joint-stock banks, of which this was the first, had been very instrumental in forwarding the interests of Ireland in every respect. They had had an extraordinary year to pass through. A demand, he would say a most senseless and useless demand, for gold had at one time sprung up in Ireland, not amongst the commercial community indeed, for they showed no symptoms of distrust. From whatever cause the demand referred to might arise, it became necessary that the board should be on their guard to meet it at every bank. They were well prepared. This distrust came on at an unfortunate time, when the monetary and commercial pressure was so severe, that even a small abstraction of gold from England was very inconvenient. But they had but one course to pursue, and that was to keep up an ample supply of gold at all their branches. When the demand for gold was made (for he could hardly call it a run), their circulation was £1,100,000, and they had in specie about £430,000. When the demand for gold ceased entirely their circulation had gone down to £930,000, but their specie was £550,000, so that as their circulation decreased their gold increased, and so they had gone on till every note was paid. The only thing he had to lament was, that in order to procure the gold they had to realise government securities, which were then depreciated in value. Since then they had reinvested in securities, and there was to be taken into account the cost of difference between the sales made and the cost of reinvesting, which constituted

the whole loss. Every gentleman knew that a certain portion of the money of the bank must be employed in London, and he was happy to say that during the whole of the crisis they had not incurred a loss of one penny. (Hear.) He thought it must be gratifying to the proprietors to know that this establishment had taken deep root in the good feeling and confidence of the people of Ireland. The number of the proprietors at this time was 955, and of that number 670 were resident in Ireland. (Hear.) He thought that spoke volumes as to the opinion in which the bank was held there. Of the whole of the proprietors a large proportion were ladies (hear, hear); and, therefore, it was more than ordinarily incumbent on those who conducted the affairs of the bank to take care that whilst they gave them a fair share of the profits, they should do everything in their power to secure them from loss. When this bank was newly established they were obliged to find their officers from England and Scotland, but since then the object was that the banks in Ireland should be managed by Irish gentlemen. They were therefore anxious that any gentleman in the neighbourhood who was interested in any young man who could write a good hand, cast up accounts, and who was capable of undergoing a fair examination, should be enabled to introduce him into the bank. They had taken in many learners, or probationers, as they were called, who were now filling high positions in the bank with credit to themselves, and advantage to the establishment. The number of their officers, including porters, in Ireland was 248; and of that number 202 were natives of Ireland. (Applause.) He did not know that he need trouble the meeting with many further observations. They would observe it was submitted in the report that the large amount of profits on the year was attributable to the high rate of interest which ruled, and to their having fortunately made very few bad debts; and for this they had to thank the officers of the establishment (hear); and though it was now almost a stereotyped phrase, he would repeat it again and again that they owed to the carefulness of the officers more than they could possibly suppose. The care, the zeal, and the watchfulness of his friend beside him (Mr. Hewat), and of other gentlemen in every department, here and also in Ireland, he could not sufficiently eulogise; for were he to attempt to do so, he knew it would raise a blush on the cheek of Mr. Hewat, for he was a very modest man. (Applause.) Again he assured the proprietors that they could not estimate these gentlemen too highly. The estimation in which they were held by the proprietors could not exceed that in which they were held by the board. There was one matter of business to which he had not referred. Henceforward they did not mean to give a bonus, but an extra dividend. An extraordinary idea had arisen in Ireland and had even reached the bench, that a bonus was, strictly speaking, an addition to the capital; and that therefore, if a person possessed shares for life, he was only entitled to the interest, the bonus going to the reversion of capital. It happened that every bonus this bank had made had been paid out of the current profits of the year, with the exception of the first time they made a bonus, which was in the year 1836, and then it was paid from the accumulation of small profits of several years before; it did not arise from the profits of the year, it was not strictly so; but they gave £10 shares, which of course went to the increase of the capital. But when there was an additional dividend, whether they called it bonus or dividend, it made no difference, it was a participation of profits, and they would henceforward avoid the word bonus. When they met last year it was stated that it was intended to pay an extra dividend of 20 per cent., and they did not hold out an expectation that it would be

as much in January; but though they had passed through an awful crisis, looking to the profits which had been made, they thought it would be unjust to withhold it, and in July they would pay the same amount. At the end of March, 1856, their undivided profits, or balance of profits undivided, was £196,000, out of which they had paid two 4 per cent. bonuses. In 1857 they advanced £225,000, and out of that £225,000 they had paid a dividend and bonus of 20 per cent., and instead of diminishing the rest it was now £234,000. He therefore hoped he might congratulate the proprietors on the position of the concern. The board would continue to use their best exertions, and he hoped they would again meet the proprietors hereafter with equally good reports. He begged to move that the report be received, adopted, printed and circulated.

The Rev. J. Lawes was most happy to second that resolution, and stated that since he had last attended the meeting, he had gone through Ireland, and it had been very satisfactory to him to hear of the high credit in which this bank was held from one end of the country to the other. A remark was made to him by a retired officer, who, speaking of Mr. Murray, the chief officer, said that it was more than their heads were worth to make a bad debt; so vigilant was that gentlemen in his superintendence of those who were under his guidance. With reference to the run upon the banks, there was no doubt that the unfortunate affair of the Tipperary Bank was the precursor to an universal panic, out of which this bank came with unshaken credit.

Mr. H. Brett, as the proprietor of a few shares, but an Irishman, begged to bear his testimony to the zeal and ability of the officers of the bank, and he should respectfully propose that a more substantial compliment than a vote of thanks, however gracefully proposed, should be paid to those gentlemen. They had a large amount of rest, and if what he suggested were carried out it would give much satisfaction to a great body of shareholders in Ireland.

The Chairman said that nothing could be more gratifying to the board than to hear their officers thus highly spoken of. He hoped and trusted that there was not a single person connected with the bank whose merits are not considered from time to time, and where their merits entitled them to it they were always met in a liberal spirit. No establishment was better paid, and he believed general satisfaction was expressed by those who were in their employ. Every year these matters were taken into consideration by what was called the "appointment committee." Last year an addition was made to the salaries, from the highest to the lowest.

The question was then put, and was carried unanimously.

Mr. Simeon Warner begged to draw the attention of the meeting to the subject of the salaries or remuneration to their excellent directors. He did not know what they received, but every one was ready to sing their praises, and he proposed that £1,000 a year be added to the remuneration of the directors, making it equal to £300 a year to each member of the board.

Mr. Philip Twells seconded the motion, which was carried with acclamation, after a few words from the chairman.

On the motion of the chairman, a very cordial vote of thanks was given to Mr. Murray, Mr. Hewat, Mr. Proctor, and Mr. Christie, and the other chief officers of the bank.

The compliment was briefly acknowledged by Mr. Hewat.

A vote of thanks to the chairman and directors was carried with applause, and the meeting separated.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.

THE annual meeting of the Oriental Bank Corporation was held on the 21st of May, Mr. H. G. Gordon in the chair; when the following report of the affairs of the company was presented:—

The directors have the pleasure of presenting to the proprietors their annual report of proceedings for the year 1857, and of submitting the general statement and balance sheet at the 31st December last. The net profit for the year, after an ample reserve has been made for bad and doubtful debts, amounts to £156,020 16*s.* 3*d.*, from which a dividend for the first six months of 1857 has already been paid, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. The directors now intend to declare a like dividend for the subsequent half-year, and in addition, a bonus of 2 per cent. These payments, together equal to £1 15*s.* per share, or 7 per cent. on the capital of the company, will be paid, free of income tax, at the office of the corporation, on and after the 1st proximo; and after the above payments are made there will remain a balance of £4,820 16*s.* 3*d.* to be carried forward to next year's account. The assistance rendered by this corporation to the London and Eastern Bank has not been so effectual in protecting the shareholders of that company as had been hoped and anticipated; litigation amongst themselves and some of their creditors having complicated and delayed the liquidation of their affairs. As regards our claim, however, which is fully secured, there is every prospect of its speedy settlement. The insurance fund now amounts to £50,000, which is considered amply sufficient for the limited risks taken by the corporation. Since the directors' last report the country has experienced a severe financial crisis. The corporation, carrying on extensive operations at many different points, has not escaped loss, but the directors have the satisfaction of stating that the large and profitable business done during the past year has enabled them not only to provide amply for every probable contingency, without interfering with the usual dividend, but also to pay a bonus as above declared. The directors propose to apply to Her Majesty's Government for a supplemental charter, to enable the proprietors, at their discretion, to re-elect retiring directors, in conformity with the Act passed in a late session of Parliament, 19 and 20 Vic., cap. C., and also to permit shares to be held in two or more names.

General Statement and Balance-sheet of the Oriental Bank Corporation, for the Year ending 31st December, 1857.

LIABILITIES.

To Promissory notes in circulation not bearing interest ..				£341,220	10 0
Bills of Exchange in circulation not bearing interest..				2,465,737	8 11
Balances due to other banks				115,087	18 7
Cash deposited not bearing interest				801,868	18 5
Cash deposited bearing interest...				2,382,392	19 9
Total due to the public				£6,106,307	15 8
Capital paid up	£1,260,000	0	0		
Reserved surplus fund	252,000	0	0		
Insurance fund	50,000	0	0		
Dividends remaining unpaid ...	10,585	15	0		
Balance of profit and loss, after defraying all current charges...	93,020	16	3		
Due to shareholders ...				1,665,606	11 3
				£7,771,914	6 11

ASSETS.

By coin and bullion...	£1,923,490	10	2
Balances due from other banks	451,099	4	6
Promissory notes or bills of other banks	61,381	5	0
	£2,435,970	19	8
Government securities	826,178	2	4
Landed or other property of the Corporation ...	161,069	11	6
Debts secured by landed or other property	30,102	1	11
Notes and bills discounted, or other debts due to the Corporation not included under the foregoing heads, and exclusive of all debts abandoned as bad ...	4,318,593	11	6
	£7,771.914	6	11

Profit and Loss Account.

To amount paid as dividend for the half-year to 30th June last	£63,000	0	0
Balance as above	93,020	16	3
	£156,020	16	3
By amount of net profit at 31st December, 1857, after defraying current charges and providing for all bad and doubtful debts	156,020	16	3
	£156,020	16	3

(Signed) H. G. Gordon, W. S. Binny, Alex. Mackenzie, } *Directors.*

Examined and found correct by

(Signed) T. A. Gibbs, W. H. Hughes, } *Auditors.*

E. E.

(Signed) W. W. Cargill, *Chief Manager.*
J. Macnab, *Accountant.*

The Chairman, in addressing the meeting, said that after all the troubles and anxieties of the last six months, he was glad to meet the shareholders with matters in a more favourable position than after the events of that period could have been expected; for the recent crisis had commenced with America, which was deeply engaged in the Chinese trade, and they had therefore got extensive transactions, which at one time seemed likely to be seriously affected by passing occurrences. Their losses, however, had been very small; their claims upon houses which had failed had been partly realised, and other houses, which were threatened with annihilation, had stood out the crisis; so that the business of the bank with them was as satisfactory as ever. (Hear, hear.) Then there had been the mutiny in India, to which, on account of those lacerations of feeling which had arisen from it, he was almost ashamed to refer upon a matter of business—(hear, hear); but he might say that although it was at first supposed it would very materially interfere with their business, it had interfered with their transactions in a very slight degree, and there was every prospect that their business with India would continue as prosperous as formerly. (Hear, hear.) And altogether, he might say, with reference to recent occurrences, they had ridden out the storm without any strain on their cable; and he

had no doubt when they next met the report of their affairs would be as favourable as it was sound. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the report, it was not necessary for him to say much. The first point in it which demanded a few words, was the state of their affairs in connexion with the London and Eastern Bank, the whole of their claims upon which, he hoped, would be shortly paid off. (Hear, hear.) The next point was the guarantee fund, which now amounted to £50,000; and as this was deemed to be sufficiently large, the amount previously appropriated to swell that fund would be carried to profit and loss, and be divided among the shareholders in addition to the ordinary dividend. (Hear, hear.) The report stated that it was intended to ask the meeting for power to apply for a supplemental charter, and the object of this was to enable them to re-elect retiring directors, which they could not do under the present charter—and they were the only bank in London which had not that power—as well as to enable parties to hold shares in two names. This could not now be done, and it often acted with great inconvenience, by compelling executors, for instance, holding shares to dispose of any other shares which came to them in trust under a will, to part with those shares whether they were willing to do so or not; and the new powers to be asked for would act beneficially by releasing parties from an obligation to throw shares upon the market—it might be inopportunely. He had nothing else to say to them; but before moving the adoption of the report he should be happy to answer any questions that might be put to him. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Tanner thought it important that the shareholders should have half-yearly meetings. During the last six months they had undergone a good deal of anxiety, and if they could have been called together last November it would have been very satisfactory to have met and heard the explanations which had now been submitted to the meeting, and so the unfavourable rumours which then prevailed would have been set right. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman—Only one meeting in the year was provided for in the charter, and if two meetings a year were to be held, a supplemental charter must first be obtained. If the proprietors wished such a clause to be introduced into their supplemental charter, the directors would of course take the matter into their serious consideration; but as there was an existing power of calling a special meeting, upon requisition from a certain number of shareholders, perhaps that would do as well as an alteration of the charter itself.

A Shareholder said there was an item in one lump of upwards of £4,000,000, and he wished to know whether that could not be divided?

The Chairman said the charter prescribed the form in which the accounts should be drawn up, and that form could not be departed from.

The Chairman then moved the adoption of the report, which was at once agreed to.

The Chairman then proposed a resolution, giving power to the directors to apply for a supplemental charter, stating that the directors would consider the propriety of introducing a clause for calling meetings half-yearly, instead of annually. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was adopted *nem con.*

The Chairman then declared a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, with a bonus of 2 per cent., being equal together to £1 15*s.* per share, or 7 per cent. on the capital of the company, free of income tax, payable on and after the 1st proximo. (Hear, hear.)

General de la Motte, W. Erskine, Esq., and W. S. Binny, Esq., were

then elected directors, in the room of Messrs. Robertson, Binny and Reid; and Mr. T. A. Gibbs and Mr. W. H. Hughes were elected auditors, with a salary of fifty guineas.

Mr. Walker, in a speech of a highly complimentary character, proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors; and also proposed that their remuneration should be fixed at £4,000 a-year.

Dr. Barnes seconded the motion, which was agreed to, with only one or two dissentients upon the point of remuneration, and the meeting then broke up.

Communications.

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine.

DRAFTS AND BILL STAMPS.

Sir,—It will greatly oblige me to be informed by you whether or not bankers are at present justified by law in retailing draft and bill stamps to their customers without license.

I am, your obedient servant,

May 6th, 1858. Q.

[We should think that the supply of stamps by bankers to their customers is not an ordinary sale of stamps requiring a license, but rather an incident to the business of bankers, in the same way as the supply of deed stamps to clients is an incident to that of the business of solicitors. If either bankers or solicitors sold stamps to the public at large without a license, they would do wrong; but when they simply sell or supply their clients or customers as part of their business as bankers or solicitors, we apprehend they require no license.]

CHEQUES TO ORDER ENDORSED BY PROCURATION.

Sir,—The legal information afforded in your valuable periodical is generally so accurate, that your readers give you full credit for duly consulting the proper authorities before your magazine is committed to an opinion. An error has, however, found its way in (see *Bankers' Magazine*, January, 1857, pages 86 and 87), which I am sure you will be glad to correct, and on reference to Clause 19 of the Stamp Act, you will see that bankers are specially exempt from *any responsibility* as to the genuineness of an endorsement of a draft to order, whether purporting to be that of the payee, or *signed under his direction or authority*.

This exemption was conceded by Mr. Gladstone before the act was passed, on the strong representation that was made to him as to the unfair amount of responsibility that would be thrown on bankers without it.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

London, 10*th May*, 1858. A London Banker.

[We think the answer referred to is correct; at all events it will be safer for bankers to act on it than to adopt our correspondent's view. The 19th section of 16 & 17 Vict., cap. 59, in our opinion, requires the endorsement to purport to be the endorsement of the payee, and then the banker is exonerated from proving that it or any subsequent endorsement was made by or under the direction or authority of the payee, &c. An endorsement by procuration does not, we think, purport to be that of the payee, except by procuration, and the fact of the procuration is, in our opinion, open to

dispute. We are sometimes wrong, but we take great pains to be accurate; and we believe it was the *Bankers' Magazine* which drew attention to the great responsibilities bankers would incur if the ordinary liability for paying a forgery rested on them, with respect to the then new form of cheque, and thereby obtained the salutary clause in question. We are much obliged to our correspondent, but we think our opinion was correct, and feel that we ought to adhere to it.]

NOTICE OF DISHONOUR TO DRAWER.

SIR,—Will you have the goodness to decide the following question:—

Is it held that the drawer of a bill to whom no notice of its dishonour has been furnished is still considered liable for the amount?

Yours truly,

18*th May*, 1858. B.

[The drawer is not liable if he chooses to set up the defence.]

ILLEGAL CHEQUES.

SIR,—The following is an extract from Mr. Leonard L. Hartley's letter, which appeared in your November number for 1853.

"Mr. Shaw, in his very useful work remarks, 'It is not perhaps generally known that a cheque for a less sum than 20*s.* is void and illegal, subjecting the parties to a penalty of £20, mitigable to not less than £5.'"

Please say if such be the law at present; and if repealed, would you be good enough to inform me when?

I shall be looking in your number for June for a reply, which I hope it will be convenient for you to make.

Your obedient servant,

Belfast, 22*nd May*, 1858. A CONSTANT READER.

[It is still illegal to issue a cheque for a less sum than 20*s.*]

Notes of the Month.

STAMPS ON CHEQUES.—The London Committee of Deputies from the Joint-Stock Banks of England, Wales, and Ireland, circulated the following resolutions, with the view of inducing the Chancellor of the Exchequer to abandon his resolution of adopting the penny stamp on cheques:—1. That the deposit system of banking, which enables individuals to place money in banks and to make all their payments by cheques, is beneficial to the depositors themselves, to the banks, and to the community at large. 2. That the introduction of joint-stock banks has greatly extended the system and brought its advantages within the reach of the less wealthy classes of society. 3. That the efficiency of this system would be greatly impaired and its progress arrested by the imposition of a tax of one penny upon each cheque, the inducement to open banking accounts will be done away with, the public will be driven to the use of notes and coin, and become their own bankers; money will be thus hoarded, and the country will be thrown back upon a system which prevailed a century ago, without any consummate advantage to the revenue. 4. That the tax being equal upon cheques of all amounts will proportionably press most severely upon those depositors who draw cheques for small sums, and these classes having most occasion to regard small savings will be most likely to close their accounts

5. That in proportion as this tax shall cause money to be withdrawn or withheld from the banks in such proportion will capital be rendered unproductive, individuals will be inconvenienced, and pecuniary transactions will be obstructed, robberies will be facilitated, and demands created for additional currency, either in bank notes or gold, while the banks will find their operations materially restricted and their means curtailed of affording facilities to commerce, or of sustaining the financial operations of the Government. 6. That, therefore, in the opinion of this committee, the imposition of the proposed tax ought to be strenuously resisted both by the banking interest and the public; and that a copy of these resolutions be respectfully transmitted to the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and forwarded to every joint-stock bank in the United Kingdom.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.—According to a Parliamentary return £76,777,642 is the gross amount of all sums received from savings banks and friendly societies by the National Debt Commissioners from the 6th of August, 1817, to the 20th of November, 1857, and £39,576,928 is the gross amount of all sums paid; £38,809,529 was invested in the Funds, and £27,290,616 was the amount of interest on dividends received by the commissioners. In the year 1857 £54,971 immediate and £1,135 deferred annuities were granted. Between the 19th of September, 1845, and the 5th of January, 1858, the total amount of stock bought by and transferred to the commissioners on account of the Military Savings-bank Fund was £248,650.

SAVINGS BANKS.—There were, on the 20th of November last, 1,341,752 individual depositors in savings banks, to the amount of £32,984,023, besides charities and friendly societies, the funds of which raised the deposits to £35,145,567. There were 195,816 depositors of £1 and under, 266,899 of £5, 176,879 of £10, 128,000 of £15, 78,309 of £20, 134,252 of £30, 106,509 of £40, 52,955 of £50, 88,566 of £75, 41,638 of £100, 27,988 of £125, 16,351 of £150, 25,820 of £200, and 1,470 of £200 and upwards.

INSOLVENCY IN AUSTRALIA.—A letter from Sydney of the 11th March, says:—"The list of estates surrendered to the Insolvent Court within the last two months represents liabilities to the amount of about £160,000, and assets £90,000. The principal of these is that of Mr. H. Fisher, liabilities £140,000, assets £80,000; Purkis and Lambert, and Muriel and Miller, auctioneers. The banks have restricted their accommodation, and now allow a discount on deposits."

AN AUSTRALIAN SWINDLER.—An adroit swindler (says a letter, dated Sydney, March 11), has recently succeeded in victimising one of the Sydney banks out of £20,000. The main facts connected with this ingenious and daring fraud are briefly as follow:—In the month of September last a letter was received at the Sydney Joint Stock Bank, containing enclosures addressed to Mr. Francisco Miranda, purporting to come from Messrs. Baring Brothers, and stating that that firm had been recommended by a house mentioned to negotiate with the Joint Stock Bank in behalf of Mr. Miranda, the head of a large and well-known Portuguese firm, who was about to visit the colonies on commercial business. It contained, also, a letter of credit for Miranda for £15,000, together with bills drawn on a firm at Hong Kong. In the following month a foreign gentleman left his card at the Spanish consul's office—"Mr. Miranda, Petty's Hotel." The consul, having previously learnt from the Joint Stock Bank the expected arrival of Mr. Miranda, called upon him, and after an exchange of courtesies, offered to accompany him to the Joint Stock Bank, where he stated that he was employed by the Portuguese authorities to purchase gold for the Mint, and showed letters from the minister of the crown to that effect, and also to purchase land on which to establish a colony of vine-dressers. Many subsequent incidents tended to support his pretensions to the position of a merchant.

During this time Mr. Miranda had drawn upon his letter of credit. He expressed great regret that the intermediate house between his own and that of Messrs. Baring should have blundered respecting the drafts upon China; he had no intention he said, to go to that country, and, even if he had the bills, it would involve considerable inconvenience to commute them into dollars, they having been made payable in pounds sterling. Accordingly it was suggested that it would be better to forward the bills at once to the firm of Baring Brothers, through the Joint Stock Bank, which was accordingly done, and thus, instead of £15,000, he obtained in all £20,000, adding the exchange, which was £200 in his favour. From Sydney he proceeded to Melbourne, where he obtained £2,500 from one of the banks on a pretended letter of credit from Messrs. Coutts and Co. Circumstances soon transpired calculated to raise doubts in the minds of the Sydney bankers and the Spanish consul as to the real character of Miranda, and the chief officer of detective police was sent to Melbourne to make inquiries. It was there ascertained that Miranda had paid a visit to the gold fields at Ballarat, but of his then whereabouts nothing was known. It was also stated that in all probability he was a Polish Jew who had passed under the name of M. Le Prairie, and that he had taken his passage for Callao. Both at Sydney and Melbourne he pretended that he could speak English very imperfectly, but it is now well known that this was a mere subterfuge to facilitate the success of his designs. He could speak English fluently enough when it suited his purpose.

India Stock.—The total amount of stock held in India, according to the return of 1847, was 36,53,60,937 rupees, of which 23,44,68,775 was held by Europeans, and 13,08,92,162 by natives. The returns since received do not show the amount of stock held, but they state the amount subscribed to the several loans. To the 5 per cent. loan of 1841-2, the Europeans subscribed 3,84,30,500 rupees, and the natives 1,94,87,600. To the 5 per cent. loan (Public Works) of 1854-55 the Europeans subscribed 1,73,60,700 rupees, and the natives 1,01,39,300; and to the 5 per cent. loan of 1856-77 (to the 1st of May, 1857), the Europeans subscribed 56,92,200 rupees, and the natives 27,93,800.

Indian Railways.—£1,881,426 has been disbursed by the government of India on account of interest upon railway capital from the commencement of operations in that country up to the present time—viz., £1,800,748 in England, and £80,678 in India. The capital raised by the six railway companies and paid into the treasuries of the Company amounts to £16,073,584, and of this only £576,979 was raised in India.

The District Bank, Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Shortly after the Northumberland and Durham District Bank closed at Newcastle-on-Tyne, it will be remembered that several of the leading shareholders in that concern opened a new bank with a view to retain the legitimate business of that concern. Extensive premises were taken in the Corporation-buildings for the bank, and the concern has gone on for several months. The following circular has, however, been issued by the firm, relinquishing the concern:—

"Bank, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, May 12.

"We have to intimate to you our intention of relinquishing our business as bankers. Our banking-house will remain open for the present, but only for the purpose of discharging the demands upon us, and for the receipt of the sums due to our firm.

"It is with reluctance that we have come to this decision; but we have felt that, after the publication of the accountant's report of the position of the Northumberland and Durham District Banking Company, we could not, with so many of our partners liable as shareholders in that concern, calculate upon inspiring that amount of confidence requisite to justify the continuance of our operations. In opening the bank we were desirous, by the appropriation of a

large portion of the anticipated profits, to relieve to the utmost of our power the shareholders in the District Bank; and the short experience we have had abundantly proves that had we been enabled to continue our business, the position of those shareholders might thus have been materially alleviated.

"We are deeply sensible of the confidence which you have reposed in us, and we anxiously hope that our determination may not cause even temporary inconvenience to those who have so kindly supported us.

"We remain, your obedient servants,

"HAWKS, GREY, PRIESTMAN, AND CO."

DEATH OF MR. LEWIS LOYD.—Mr. Lewis Loyd, the father of Lord Overstone, died at his son's seat in Northamptonshire, on the 13th of May, at the venerable age of ninety. Mr. Loyd was for a period of fifty years the head of the eminent banking firm of Jones, Loyd, and Co., of Manchester and of Lothbury, London. He was the eldest son of Mr. William Loyd, of Court Henry, county Carmarthen, and early in life became the pastor of a small dissenting chapel at Manchester; but having married the only daughter of a wealthy merchant of that city, the late Mr. John Jones, he was induced to enter the world of commerce. His father-in-law took him into partnership at Manchester, and he showed great capacity in his new position. After some years, in consequence of repeated complaints on the part of their London agents as to the difficulty of keeping the accounts of the firm, it was agreed that Mr. Loyd should proceed to the metropolis and there establish a bank under the same name as the original firm. This he accordingly did, and Jones, Loyd, and Co., of Manchester, drew bills on Jones, Loyd, and Co., of Lothbury, London. The results of Mr. Loyd's energy, industry, and mercantile intelligence, are to be seen directly in the prosperity of the great banking house which bears his name, and more remotely in the elevation of his son, Mr. Samuel Jones Loyd, to the honours of the British peerage as Lord Overstone.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM DISTRICT BANK.—The official list of contributories recently settled contains the names of 407 persons holding 55,653 shares. The following hold more than 500 shares each:—Mr. C. Allhusen, Newcastle, 1,960; the executors of the late Mr. C. W. Bigge, Linden, 3,375; Mr. J. Bigland, Ebchester, and Mr. H. Bigland, Manchester, 640 jointly; Mr. W. Chapman, Darlington, 600; Mr. C. F. Eskuche, Newcastle, 770; Mr. J. Fleming, Newcastle, 1,000; Mr. J. Grey, Dilston, 1,540; the Rev. W. Hawks, Newcastle, 1,820; Mr. J. Hawks, Newcastle, 1,200; Mr. J. Joicey, Newcastle, 1,200; the Rev. W. S. Jacson, Meldon, 615; Mr. W. Mountain, Newcastle, 2,290; Mr. E. Paull, Peckham, 1,090; Mr. J. Richardson, Newcastle, 1,600; Mr. J. Richardson, Shotley Park, 560; Mr. G. Ridley, M.P., 555; Mr. J. Sillick, Newcastle, 700; Captain Sanders, R.N., Bath, 1,205; Mr. F. Taylor, London, 770; and Mr. W. H. Wood, Coxhoe Hall, 1,000. Of the 407 contributories 66 are returned as spinsters, and 36 as widows, or about one-fourth of the whole number. The number of shares held by these unfortunate ladies ranges from 10 to 360. About 40 shareholders are returned as "gentlemen," 2 as baronets, 4 as "esquires," and 20 as merchants. The remainder of the list is made up of persons engaged in retail businesses and in subordinate situations. One holder of 10 shares is described as a butler, another of 5 as a gardener, another of 45 as a coachman, another of 5 as a female servant, and two holding 50 jointly as a porter and bricklayer.

GOLD VERSUS SILVER CROWN PIECES.—A memorial has been forwarded to the Earl of Derby from the bankers and a portion of the trading community of Manchester, calling attention to the convenience that would result from the issue of

gold five-shilling pieces in place of the large silver crown now in circulation. The memorial states that France, Spain, and the United States have gold coins of the value specified, and that the rapid addition to the stock of gold affords a good opportunity for the change.

Reviews.

Price on Fire and Thief-proof Depositories and Locks and Keys. By GEORGE PRICE. London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Stationers' Hall Court, &c.

THIS is a very valuable treatise, and enters at length into the entire subject. Bankers and all who have the custody of special property, including of course bank notes, specie, bonds, mortgages, and the various classes of negotiable securities, should attentively peruse this work. In addition to much useful information connected with the early history of the iron safe trade, the introduction of locks, keys, &c., important chapters are added respecting the lock controversy previous to and during the Great Exhibition of 1851, and the lock controversy since that period. Mr. Price is evidently quite master of the question of which he treats, and has fully digested the materials necessary to illustrate his several important departments of business.

Guaranteed Securities—Their Merits as Investments considered. By JOHN WHITEHEAD, of the Stock Exchange. Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange.

THE author has here brought forward the whole of the guaranteed securities negotiable in the London markets, and his representations respecting their pecuniary value are fairly and impartially described. His previous works on Railway Investments have achieved great popularity, and there is every prospect of this one being extensively circulated.

Table showing at a glance the Income Tax of 5d. in the pound. By JOSEPH GRITTON of the Bank of England.

Table showing the net amount of the half-yearly dividend on any sum of £3 per cent. stock after deducting the Income Tax of 5d. in the pound. By JOSEPH GRITTON, of the Bank of England. Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange.

THESE are really very useful and complete tables, and having been adopted by the bank authorities their correctness is fully guaranteed.

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

May 11.—Resignation of the Earl of Ellenborough, as President of the Board of Control.

12.—Announcement of the failure of Mr. Lafone, of Buenos Ayres, with liabilities amounting to £260,000.

12.—Suspension of Messrs. Zimmermann, Frazier and Co., of Buenos Ayres.

15.—Votes of censure moved in the House of Lords by the Earl of Shaftesbury, and in the Commons by Mr. Cardwell, on the conduct of ministers for forwarding a despatch disapproving of a proclamation issued by Lord Canning, Governor-General of India, confiscating the property of the Oude insurgents. In the Lords the debate was brought to a close the same night, the motion being negatived by a majority of ten. The debate in the Commons continued for four nights, when the motion was withdrawn.

16.—Suspension announced of Messrs. Pedro, Peyke and Co., of Bahia, in the German trade.

18.—Announcement of the failure of Messrs. Felix Rignon and Co., silk manufacturers, of Turin.

20.—Failure announced of Messrs. Groothoff and Schultz, of Hamburg.

21.—The rate of interest reduced on Exchequer bills falling due in June from 2½*d.* to 1½*d.* per diem.

25.—The 1*d.* stamp duty on cheques came into operation.

BANKING MOVEMENTS.

It is understood that Mr. Weguelin, M.P., who was recently Governor of the Bank of England, is about to join the banking house of Messrs. Robarts and Co.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following are the suspensions of the month, and they wholly comprise foreign houses, all of which have extensive engagements:—

May.—Mr. Lafone, Buenos Ayres, merchant.
Messrs. Zimmermann, Frazier and Co., Buenos Ayres, merchants.
Messrs. Pedro, Peyke and Co., Bahia, German trade.
Messrs. Felix Rignon and Co., Turin, silk manufacturers.
Messrs. Groothoff and Schultz, Hamburg merchants.

BANKING OBITUARY.

On the 27th of April, at Dalston, Mr. John Willett, for many years in the Bank of England, aged 60 years.

On the 13th of May, at Overstone Park, Mr. Lewis Loyd, of Messrs. Jones, Loyd and Co.

On the 18th May, at Uxbridge, James Kimber, Esq., of the London and County Bank, aged 33 years.

Monetary Intelligence.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 1858.

The progress of financial and mercantile affairs has been steady during the past month, and although trading activity is not apparent, the feeling respecting an improvement is much more favourable. The late attempt to defeat the ministry having terminated in the withdrawal of Mr. Cardwell's resolution, the doubt and uncertainty which prevailed with regard

to a dissolution has ceased. At this period of the year it would have exercised a prejudicial influence on trade, and the consequences after the late crisis would have been extremely disastrous. The value of money has not increased, and the rates for first-class paper are still 2½ to 2¾ per cent.; the Bank of England minimum remaining 3 per cent. A slight tendency to increased demand has occasionally occurred, through the requirements of country bankers, but after a short interval a relapse has taken place, and the supply becomes as abundant as before. In this state of things there has been an extensive export to the continent, and hence, although large receipts have been secured from Australia, the West Indies, Brazil and America, only a limited proportion has been taken to the Bank. Exceptional transactions have occurred through operations with Rio de Janeiro, but these have only been to the extent of £400,000, and the bulk exported has been much larger. Some pressure may hereafter be experienced should business revive through the extensive issue of East India shares, upwards of £4,000,000 additional capital having been guaranteed to the East India and the Great Indian Peninsular Companies, and £1,000,000 to the Great Southern of India. Besides these prospective demands, Messrs. Rothschild's have brought out a Brazilian loan of £1,500,000 at 4½ per cent., and an attempt has been made to raise money for Sweden.

The fluctuations in Consols have been about 1 per cent., and a steady rise has occurred in prices. After improving from 97¼ to 98¼, a reaction has set in, and the market is now rather heavy at 97½: the sales of the speculators having produced some depression. Pending the late political contest there was much inactivity, but quotations were well supported. The reduction of the rate of discount upon the June (advertised) bills to 1½ per annum has caused some slight depression in that particular class, but the March bills, upon which the rate now rules at 2*d*., are maintained with firmness.

Foreign securities have not been very extensively dealt in, except Peruvian, which, owing to the increase of the sinking fund, has experienced considerable advance. Both the 4½ per cent. and the 3 per cent. have been very largely purchased, but chiefly on speculative account. The result is an improvement ranging from 7 to 12 per cent., which has since been fairly supported. Buenos Ayres, and other Spanish American descriptions, have been rather firmer, though the operations have not been so important as in the other departments. Turkish has slightly receded on the rumour of an impending loan, but some difficulty would be experienced in attempting to raise a large amount in this country. Brazil is treating for a 4½ per cent. loan through Messrs. Rothschild, to the limited extent of £1,500,000, and the price at which it will be issued is 96. An attempt to obtain money on behalf of the Swedish Government in a 4½ per cent. loan, for the development of the railway system, appears to have failed. Spanish and Mexican have been steady, with a moderate amount of business.

The transactions in railway shares have been of a mixed character. At one period of the month there was a slight recovery, and prices then seemed to be in a position likely to be well sustained. Since that date heaviness has again been apparent, and the revulsion has proved equal to the previous rise. Business in this market changes severely, and is frequently influenced by extraneous causes. Hence, while English lines are improving, advices will be received of flatness on the Paris Bourse, and the immediate consequence is a reaction, and partial decline. French and Belgian shares have gone back through the pressure of sales of the former, and Indian of all classes have been very dull owing to the large and disproportioned

issues of East Indian and Great Indian Peninsular shares. The unfavourable state of the season, the non-recovery in traffic receipts, and the futile attempts to arrange the competition between the London and North Western and the Great Northern Companies, have done much to unsettle business among the dealers. Prices have varied from £3 to £5 per share, and the market at the latest moment is dull and heavy.

The market for the shares of joint-stock banks have not experienced any great movement. Prices have in some slight degree fluctuated, and business for the moment will be limited. The approach of the half-yearly meetings will, however, enable the dealers to test the pulse of the public, who will shortly operate in anticipation of some revelations associated with dividends. Colonial and Indian joint-stock bank shares have been steady.

The following are the fluctuations in English and Foreign Stocks, and Railway Shares during the month just concluded :—

	Price on Apr. 28.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on May 28.
ENGLISH FUNDS.				
Consols	97¼-97⅜	98⅛	97⅛	97⅞
Exchequer bills	33*s.* to 36*s.* pm.	45*s.* pm.	34*s.* p.m.	36*s.* to 41*s.* p.m.
FOREIGN STOCKS.				
Brazilian	—	102¼	101¼	102
Buenos Ayres	81	83¼	81	82
Chilian	103⅜	103⅞	103½	103⅝
Dutch, 2½ per cent.	66¼	66½	66	66½
Mexican	20½	21	20⅜	20½
Peruvian, 4½ per cent.	82⅜	88	82¼	87
Russian	111½	113	111½	112½
Spanish	44½	45	44	44½
Turkish, 6 per cent.	98⅞	99¼	96	96⅝
Ditto, 4 per cent.	104⅝	104⅝	104	104⅜
RAILWAY SHARES.				
Brighton	105¾	108½	105	108½
Caledonian	86	87½	84½	84½
Eastern Counties	61½	63½	60½	61
Great Northern	102¾	104¾	102½	103
Great Western	57½	58	54½	55
Lancashire and Yorkshire... ...	91¼	93½	90¼	91
London and North Western ...	95	96	92⅝	93
Midland	95	96½	92½	92½
North Staffordshire	13	13½	12⅞	13
South Eastern	72⅝	73½	68¾	69½
South Western	95¾	97½	94½	95½
York, Newcastle, and Berwick ...	93⅝	94½	91½	91½
York and North Midland	75⅞	77	72½	72½
East Indian...	111	111½	106	106
Northern of France	38⅞	37⅞	36⅝	36⅝

THE GRAIN TRADE.

NOTWITHSTANDING the very cold and unseasonable weather during the past month, the accounts from all parts of the country speak cheeringly of the appearance of the crops and the prospects of the next harvest. The grain

markets have generally been steady for all descriptions, with rather an upward tendency in the price of wheat. As there seems to be an impression that, notwithstanding the favourable appearance of the crops, good wheat is worth holding, an improved demand is not unlikely to ensue.

The *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been :—

Week ending 1858.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six weeks Last Year. s. d.
April 24	96,915	44 9	44 4	1 0	54 4
May 1	97,974	44 5	44 2	1 0	54 1
„ 8	97,746	44 2	44 0	1 0	54 2
„ 15	111,226	44 11	44 1	1 0	54 7

The importations since the harvest of 1857 have been :—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total Qrs.
Thirty-nine weeks ended 14th April ...	2,867,321	2,571,650	5,438,971
Four weeks ended 12th May ...	334,648	419,704	754,352
	3,201,969	2,991,354	6,193,323

And the *weekly averages* have been :—

Thirty-nine weeks ended 14th April ...	73,000	66,000	139,000
Four weeks ended 12th May ...	83,000	105,000	188,000
More	10,000	39,000	49,000

THE STATE OF TRADE.

The state of trade in the manufacturing districts has rather recovered, but as yet the amount of activity is not remarkable. A steady return to confidence will be requisite before any important movement can be anticipated. In this respect the tendency is universal; but the shipments abroad are not of an extensive character.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We are still a little in arrear with matter, but next month we hope to be enabled to clear off everything. The report of the National Bank stands over for want of space, but the accounts are very encouraging, and the business of the bank is increasing. Letters and communications, unless they involve important considerations, should be forwarded by the 22nd of the month, directed to the editor, No. 8, Birchin Lane.

Editor.—The interest tables published by Messrs Letts and Co., are very useful. Those also of Thompson's, described in the advertisement sheet this month, may be consulted with advantage.

Senior Cashier.—No doubt can be entertained but that the party in question is liable. An action at law would soon settle the matter.

Z.A. (Thetford)—A case in point is the one indicated, and it deserves serious consideration.

"Cashier."—First two queries—no stamp required; third—diversity of practice.

"An Inexperienced."—No stamp required in the first case. Union cheques are still exempt. No settled rule at present.

X. Y. Z.—It is not safe to use instruments which are open to discussion with regard to their liability to stamps; and although a simple letter requesting a remittance may be exempt, we think that it should not be put in the shape of an order, or used in lieu of one.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE;

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

JULY, 1858.

COMMERCIAL POSITION OF AMERICA.

The complex features presented by the state of trade in the United States since the late financial derangement, provide a wide field for investigation. The same enigmas that at the period of the crisis were so strikingly presented come up again for solution, only in more perplexing forms—the existing state of things seeming to encourage any and every theory of political economy, including the one which from individual and general loss in overtrading would demonstrate individual and general gain and abundance; from the incurring of indebtedness beyond the power of compensation, the security and the means of further advancement and profit. Not to speak of the exterior indebtedness of the country, the indebtedness of the interior leaves it not far removed from insolvency, as evidenced in the actual confiscation of property from one hand to another, from the more industrious to the more speculative—a process continually going on. The efforts of industry, though in some respects greater than ever in the United States, are counteracted by the defective systematization of trade, which suffers the returns rightly accruing to industry to be sacrificed to hazardous financial schemes and bold speculations on the part of individuals in league with powerful moneyed institutions. So infinite are the avenues of trade in a country such as the United States, where every interest is surrendered to the most open competition, that capital and labour can there never want employment; still the evident tendency of current operations is to subordinate permanent to temporary interests. What astonishes us in this country is the fact, that with the state of things which we know to exist in the United States there should lie, in the course of trade, so little embarrassment and mutual distrust; that with all the public inconvenience, indi-

vidual insolvency and private misery ensuing from the late collapse, transactions of all sorts should be carried on as though no harm, but, on the contrary, much good had resulted from the financial influxion, thriftless expenditure, undue speculation and overtrading of 1857 and preceding years, and the paper of the banks continue to be acceptable for the payment of debts and the purchase of commodities.

The incidents which have characterised the period that has elapsed since the crisis have proved confirmatory of the views we have all along entertained of the levity of spirit with which the merchants and traders of the United States are disposed to view the position in which their own feverish recklessness has placed them to foreign debtors and to others. The complacency assumed by individuals amidst them as they come up, one after another, on the top of the wave that a short time since threatened to engulf them, is something marvellous to the uninitiated. Hardened by an opinion freely exchanged amidst themselves, that almost everybody who is anybody, owes debts which he cannot pay, they go so far as to depreciate the houses which stood the concussion and the blast. The saying runs: "Those houses would have failed had they *happened* to have as large obligations coming due at the time as ourselves." They would have the recent disasters debited to accidental contingencies. The *Merchants' Magazine*, of New York, encourages this view, attributing the late crisis, amidst other causes, to the existence of the Electric Telegraph, which served to convey and to concentrate in New York information of each failure as it occurred, from the breaking-up of the Ohio Life and Trust Company to the bank suspension—that otherwise the true state of affairs would have come to light in such a piecemeal fashion, and so slowly, as to attract no very general attention, and so allowed trade combination to have arrested—as it endeavoured to do in the case of Page and Bacon—the falling pillar of public confidence. Whilst there is exhibited an unmistakable tendency towards a full and active resumption of trade in its wonted channels, so far as the restrictions put upon it will allow of this —as indicated in the weekly increase of traffic along the great lines from the interior to the seaboard, by the enlarged employment of shipping on the western waters, and the spasmodic movements of cotton and woollen manufactures—yet, wherever speculation can show itself, we find it intent in bringing about former combinations with reference to results wholly artificial. The credit of the individuals who assume to be largely engaged in trade is probably greater than their entire capital. The basis, therefore, of their operations is, to some extent, fictitious; and

when this is the case, although the extent of business and employment is greatly enlarged, and the general rate of profit kept at a higher point, the returns from production are likely to be diverted from labour, even beyond the actual profit realised. When even amidst general production, these financiering gentlemen manage to get rich, what may they not accomplish under the happier auspices of 1858. Getting rich on the ruin of others, their sentiments at the present time are, doubtless, those expressed by the poet Denham:—

"Shall we kindle all this flame,
Only to put it out again?
And must we now give o'er,
And only end where we begun?
In vain this mischief we have done,
If we can do no more."

We are not disposed to take a despondent view of the trade of the United States, though it is certainly far from having attained its due activity. The difficulty of collecting debts in certain wide regions of country, dotted by a sparse population, would seem, for the first time, to have obtained practical attention, and some care has been exercised to give credit where the means of repayment would be within easy reach. Two or three or four weeks' delay in collection, may, in these fast times, prove fatal to an establishment that might otherwise have obtained the credit of being wealthy and impregnable in its position. This difficulty in past times has affected the middling and small manufacturers and dealers, as well as large houses. The spring trade which, it was anticipated, would be extremely active—on what ground it is hard to imagine—has passed off tamely, and without the usual "rush," the business having been diffused through a series of months. These sudden descents on the great marts of trade by merchants or dealers from the north, south, and south-west, each eager to anticipate the other in purchases, though tending to stimulate nominal prices, found its reaction in the inability of merchants attending the sales to make good their obligations, from having purchased too much "in the lump," and, in consequence of immediate influences, brought to bear by competition, without the necessary judgment and caution. The spring trade of the United States in foreign goods has been comparatively moderate, the business partaking to some extent of a retail character, purchasers again and again returning to buy according to their current wants; expectations of enlargement of business naturally centre on the fall trade, in which the West and South will come off with more extended credit. There is need here of the warning that there can be no assurance beyond what may arise from our own prudence and

caution, that with larger importations by the United States, and continued ease in the money market of that country, the irregularities of trade which have led to such disastrous results may not again be repeated, for the "crisis" has not served to throw the conduct of the trade abroad into the hands of new men more intelligent and honest than those with whom we have already had dealings.

It follows from what we have said, that the impression so widely prevalent, that when the farmers sell their crops "all will be right," is fallacious. To extinguish all outstanding debt, something more is necessary than that the unrealised wealth of another harvest—in the shape of grain in the stack or shock—should, at an opportune moment, be hurried to the seaboard. Although many farmers may be enabled to clear off or to lessen their individual debts, the proceeds will do little towards the settlement of the mercantile indebtedness of the interior. The larger profits from the transaction are nothing to us, for we do not touch them if not falling into the hands of those who owe us. There are townships and even counties which possess the wherewith to pay their mercantile indebtedness, but in these, as in other instances, we must wait until in the course of events the means can be rendered properly available. That the condition of the farmers is not prosperous, may be readily conceived, from the fact that the grain crop of 1857 had to be sold 20 per cent. below the price they expected when they planted, and when the price of labour was high; whilst the produce of 1858 must be sold at a similar figure. All the issue of notes going on in the United States cannot raise higher the produce of the farmer, who, in his necessitated sensitiveness to commercial revulsions, is sure to suffer in the end from temporary financial inflation, and to be placed more or less at the mercy of outside speculators. Notwithstanding the excessive obligations that have been incurred by the United States, the amount of surplus production destined for exportation the present year, and which will probably reach in value 250,000,000 dollars, offers a fair margin for recovery. The advantage that may be expected to accrue to ourselves, however, will be greatly counteracted by continued and persistent looseness in our dealings with the United States, by making investments of money in railway and mining stocks, on the mere verbal representation of interested parties, in making unwary advances on goods, and so encouraging the speculative mania of the country, and giving fresh and dangerous impetus to movements already proceeding with accelerated speed. English investments of capital in their stocks are closely watched and exaggerated by the Americans. We touch,

with the magic wand of our gold, one of their "fancy" stocks, and other thick clustering stocks sympathetically rise. The late investment in the New York and Erie Railroad bonds has given a new value to all the "fancies." In this connection it is worth while to remember, that, but for the failure of the general speculative operations of last year, which were promoted by our own foolish investments in schemes, of the intrinsic value of which we knew nothing, the southern States would have been enabled to realise a hundred instead of sixty-five millions of dollars on its cotton.

The interests of the exporter from this country are further hazarded by the vicious or rather loose system of mercantile credit that continues to be pursued in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other cities, by the jobbing houses, to the dealers in the interior, seemingly on the calculation that business must be done; and that as one-third of their sales prove on an average a dead loss, it is to no account to be too particular. The western and south-western trader comes into the store of the importer of foreign goods and takes on credit large invoices of goods, on what would be considered here the lowest possible consideration, without any formal introduction, and with verbal references to men who not unfrequently lend their names on the understanding that these traders would rob Peter to pay Paul, and "will do better next time." In other cases—such is the wide and unwatched extent of operations—those whose notes have fallen due and been protested will find ready aid and be able to buy another bale of goods if they only keep clear of those parties from whom preceding purchases were made.

The present low prices of merchandise should operate as a further warning to our merchants and manufacturers in forwarding goods to the American market. Importers in the United States, as experience has shown, are guided less in their orders by actual requirements than by the prospect of extended credit. It is needless to point out that the greater the amount of capital thus unnecessarily lent, the more do we expose ourselves to injury from suspension. The resources of the banks are proved not to be available for settlement of indebtedness, however buoyant their paper, and however large their accumulation of specie; these institutions, in fact, are in league with speculators whose interests are not ours. Then, with the diminution of wages in the North, there is already evidenced a diminished power to consume our exports, whilst in the way of reaction, exporters of manufactured goods from this country must suffer from the deterioration in the condition

of the whole body of the people, labourers and capitalists, farmers and planters, as well as from the uncancelled obligations of merchants. It is to be remembered, too, that the people of the United States have paid, during the last four years, less in proportion to the value and amount of the goods they have received than at any former period. Under the present system of sales, the amount received by importers in the States for our exports is actually beneath their prime cost. These enormous auction sales of British goods in all the great cities of the Union, continually going on—most extensive, perhaps, in the dull season, or the period that intervenes between the spring and fall trades—are mainly designed to raise cash to meet maturing bills; and as the goods are invariably sold at a loss, this is at the ultimate sacrifice of the British exporter. Means for the distribution of these goods are ample, would importers but consent to wait for slow and sure returns; but looking to accommodation, they vainly trust to a large per centage of profit on general trade. These sales, to be sure, are not so extravagantly large just now as formerly, but they are sufficient to indicate the disposition of merchants to make every sacrifice to maintain their individual position. By means of these sales, merchants have saved themselves again and again from insolvency. We would point to the notorious fact, that auction dry-goods salesmen in New York, as well as in other cities, having imitated for themselves the process from beginning to end, by which they saw merchants temporarily profit, securing further credit with the pitiful proceeds, have successively been broken down by zealous combinations.

Looking to the extended means of transportation in course of rapid development which are to be found in the United States, and which so largely concern the character, amount and direction of trade, an observer can hardly fail to note the ultimate tendency of the railroads of the United States to subside into Grand Trunk Lines—main arteries opening out at each end on grand reservoirs or points of supply, and furnished, more or less freely throughout their course, with subordinate and tributary branches which drain the neighbouring regions, all working harmoniously together under one intelligent system of rule. The more these roads are cemented, the less the expense of transportation, and the greater the regularity of general trade. "The Central," a mammoth consolidation of roads, with a revenue of 4,000,000 dollars a year, and in which large investments have recently been made by London capitalists, is a notable instance of successful working. That spirit of competition—the very *animus* of the country—by appealing to which speculators have

managed to generate so many unnecessary roads, and which has served to keep these roads so much apart, is, in its turn, causing them effectively to combine in view of the competition between themselves, of what are or will be Grand Trunk Lines. The amount of domestic produce moved northward this year for exportation from the southern States will, probably, amount to 150,000,000 dollars. Steamships as well as railways now afford the facilities for transportation, that were so long wanting to impart to them fresh activity. The whole amount of exports of the United States at the close of the last fiscal year, reached in value 279,000,000 dollars, of which the south is estimated to have contributed half the amount. The south sends northward for home consumption thirty or forty million dollars' worth of cotton and other articles, eight million pounds of tobacco and other products, swelling the whole aggregate of its surplus production to 220,000,000 dollars. The north-eastern States send in return a vast amount of productions to the south, exporting, at the same time, of surplus productions to the value of 100,000,000 dollars. The south receives considerably more of northern productions than the north does of southern productions; but before it can come up to the south, the south must take 125,000,000 dollars' worth of goods. Thus the State of New York has competitors for the traffic of its canals and railroads, and the business of its commercial metropolis, in the Pennsylvania canals and Central Railroad, the Baltimore and Ohio canals and railroads, and the Canada railroads, all bidding to do the service for the same rates of fare and freight. The closeness of the competition may be judged from the relative length of the competing lines. From New York to Cincinnati by Central Road is 886 miles; by New York and Erie, is 858 miles; by Pennsylvania Central, 807; from New York to Chicago by New York Central, 990; by Cleveland, 920; by Port Wayne, 913; by Baltimore and Ohio, 977; from Portland to Detroit, *vid* Grand Trunk and Great Western, 867. The city of Philadelphia, by means of her canals and railroads, is already the successful rival of New York for the business of Western Ohio, Michigan, and all the more southerly points. Maryland is the successful competitor of New York, through her canal and railroad, for a large traffic from Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois, which, some years since, sought no other channel than the Erie Canal. New Orleans is now as good a flour market as New York. The most serious opposition encountered by New York will, doubtless, be by the Grand Trunk Railroad from Montreal to the lakes, by which passengers and freight can be transported

from Boston and Portland to Montreal, and from Montreal to Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukie, &c., as quickly and as cheaply as from New York to the same destination. The net work of railways striking out in a north-westerly direction from Boston towards the Canadian frontiers, but originally laid down for the interior wants of Massachusetts, after being subjected to the divided counsels of a legion of petty shareholders, into whose possession they had dropped, till they ceased to pay even a working profit, were, as a last step, put under the control of a few intelligent men, who, seeing they were not to be supported by the conveyance of one or two articles of production, or by the localised interests along their lines, entered into an arrangement by which they were brought to work together as feeders of the Grand Trunk Line of Canada, the steamers of the company bringing the lighter freight to Boston for conveyance along these roads. Shares on the lines of railroad in the United States entitled to be considered as essentially Grand Trunk Lines, under whatever name they may figure, will, no doubt, in the end be found immensely valuable, though the question of their present desirableness can only be arrived at by forming an accurate estimate of their past and prospective obligations, their present assessed value, the peculiarities, resources, progress and development of the country tributary to them or on which they open, and finally the general course of trade and the exterior relations of commerce, as these are likely to affect them.

Looking to the conditions by which trade is to be successfully upheld in the United States, and our own immediate interests secured, there is danger, as we have said, of the energies of the country being too highly stimulated—of its again obtaining too large a credit—a course which must be attended with the same disadvantageous results we have just witnessed. The United States, one might imagine, has had sufficient to warn it of the folly of persisting in propping up an inflated and hazardous system of mercantile credit, in defiance of the clearest evidence that excessive importation from abroad, interlocking with inflated credit at home, is the main cause of embarrassment. Notwithstanding the prospect before them, merchants, manufacturers and dealers are apparently disposed at our expense to run a hot race against time. Woollen and cotton manufacturers, though temporarily unproductive and in advance of actual needs, continue to be carried on through the strength of paper, which is abundant for this purpose, and under the quick-sighted guidance of individual interest, which, without this, could not face the gigantic competition of this country.

It may be that the large amount of unemployed capital will find vent in the employment of trade. The fever of speculation which commenced with the suspension of specie payments continues to develop itself, the speculative appetite being fed by operations in the English market, by our investments in the Erie, Illinois, Central, Michigan, Southern, and other roads. As facilities to trade, the railroads of the country are worth an untold amount; but it is not an unlimited investment in them to which we look for the recuperative power which is to put the country, both as respects its mercantile debt and interior indebtedness, on a sounder footing.

The next settlement of accounts will test the state of affairs in the United States even more correctly than the disclosures attendant on the late crisis. The Bank discounts and circulation represent but a fraction of the actual indebtedness of the country, which in credits, mortgages, bills over-due, debts of accommodation, &c., amount to a terrible aggregate. But after all this great commercial revulsion, this general embarrassment, in which England figures as the leading creditor—regarded, it is to be feared, as a common enemy, or as a customer again to be more signally overreached—there remains the equally indubitable fact of the ultimate resources of a country, the inherent wealth of which is incalculable, and which with a tide of emigration perpetually pouring southward and westward with increasing volume, and under the influence of time, industry and labour, merely requires the exercise of ordinary prudential action to redeem it eventually from its deep indebtedness, and leave it comparatively unencumbered in its swift career of prosperity.

EXISTING DEPRESSION IN TRADE.

Depression in every branch of trade, to an extent to which of late years we have happily been strangers, has been the leading characteristic of the past six months. Nor can it be said that we are as yet experiencing any very marked symptoms of a revival, although, looking at all the circumstances of the case, it is impossible to believe that improvement is far distant. Considering the severity of the monetary crisis of last autumn, a reactionary period in which mercantile distrust, extreme caution and sluggishness of trade would prevail was to be anticipated; but few were prepared to expect that these depressing influences would be accompanied by so unusual a superabundance of money. The Bank of England is groaning under the weight of unemployed capital, which has been for so many months accumulating in its hands. Deposits

are crowding in upon the private and joint-stock banks daily—only to remain locked up in their strong-rooms, or to be sent for greater security to swell the practically useless hoards lying in the Threadneedle Street cellars. For banking accommodation, in the ordinary sense of the term, there is no demand, and the business of the banking establishments is confined to the unprofitable custody of customers' deposits. For the legitimate and ordinary uses of trade there is scarcely any demand for money, and for speculative purposes literally none. A rate of discount ruling from 2¼ to 2½ per cent. for first class securities, fails to attract applicants or to find a market; and co-existent with this extraordinary state of things in a mercantile community, we have Consols which pay 3 per cent. at par falling to 95, and scarcely any public demand; while the highest class railway and general securities are unsaleable at prices which will bring them up to a five or six per cent. investment.

Speculative enterprise for the present sleeps, and even the every-day operations of commerce are circumscribed within the narrowest limits. The legislative facilities granted during the last two or three sessions for encouraging the application of joint-stock capital to commercial undertakings, by reducing the individual liability of the adventurers to the amount fixed by themselves, have remained almost inoperative. They have not only altogether failed to give that impetus to wild and reckless speculation which those who objected to the innovation upon long established custom contended they would afford, but they have been nearly as ineffective in producing those beneficial results which their promoters imagined would result from them, both to shareholders and the public. Under the potent influence of a financial crisis, world-wide in extent, and the reactionary process which is still in progress, those powers from which so much was expected for good or for evil have lain dormant, and for some time to come are likely to continue so. The advertising columns of the daily journals are innocent of tempting announcements of brilliant projects, which, with infinitessimal risk, are to make the fortunes of all who engage in them; and though Parliament has before it rather a longer list of private bills than it has had to deal with for some few years past, they generally refer to schemes that involve no immediate or considerable outlay of capital, and which were for the most part resolved upon before the crisis set in. The fashionable season which commenced much earlier than usual, and under the circumstances most auspiciously with the marriage of the Princess Royal, has passed its zenith, and as regards trade has proved almost a failure. Down to the close of the month of March, the

receipts of the West End retail traders was scarcely adequate to defray their current expenses.

A long continuance of fine summer weather and the presence of the Court have no doubt since then brought some improvement in this respect; it is hardly to be hoped that that large class who depend upon "the season" will find the aggregate results equal to the accustomed average. When the retail trader has reason to complain of want of custom, the wholesale house and the manufacturer cannot long be in a state of active prosperity, and the absence of orders upon the manufacturer is instantly felt by the great body of the working-classes in the diminished demand for labour.

Probably there is no more accurate indicator of the pressure upon the working-classes than the falling off in the railway traffic returns, which is unquestionably one main cause of the depression now weighing upon the various descriptions of railway stocks. When the people are fully employed and money circulates freely amongst them, experience shows that they are ever ready to avail themselves of the facilities for cheap and speedy locomotion which are provided for them. And as diminished railway receipts marked the rise and progress of the existing difficulty, its cessation will be as certainly characterized by an improvement in the traffic returns and a restoration of the value of railway property.

But besides the natural reaction succeeding to the excitement of a financial panic resulting in a crisis, there are other causes which have contributed in a powerful degree to the existing state of commercial affairs, and which go far to explain the anomalous circumstances by which they are attended. Amongst those causes foreign politics stand prominently out. Scarcely had the crisis subsided when differences of a serious nature arose with the most powerful military nation of the world. In February, just as things were beginning to settle down, and when having passed through the trying ordeal to which the country had been subjected, we were beginning to look forward to the resumption of that state of healthy commercial action which is the normal condition of the British nation—circumstances, for which England was in no way responsible, arose suddenly and threatened to involve us in hostilities with our near neighbour and quondam ally the Emperor of France. As a natural consequence, trading operations were again suspended—capitalists feared to embark their money in speculative enterprises at the risk of their being interrupted by a war which, had it once broken out, it would have been impossible for any man living to foresee the end. This danger

had hardly passed away, when another arose, and, because of the democratic character of the Government opposed to us, and the apparent depth of the hostile feeling amongst all classes subject to that Government, at first sight a still more formidable one, on the other side of the Atlantic. The disputed question of the right of visit might at any moment, by the indiscretion of any British naval officer commanding a vessel of war on the American station, have plunged us into a war—which so late as a fortnight ago it seemed next to an impossibility to avoid—and a war which more than any other would have interfered with commercial pursuits and the operations of our mercantile marine. Then again, *pari-passu* with both these, there was the Indian difficulty not yet subdued, and the dispute with the King of Naples, which, though an insignificant matter in itself, assumed gigantic proportions when the powerful governments that, had extremities been resorted to, might and probably would have taken part in the contest, were brought into the account. These are all causes which, coming together or following upon each other in uninterrupted succession, as they have done, could not but exercise a serious influence to the prejudice of the trading interests of the country.

Happily all these difficulties and impediments are at an end. What the great and universally admitted diplomatic ability of Lord Palmerston and Lord Clarendon failed to accomplish, the singleness of purpose and determined, but at the same time conciliatory attitude assumed by the Foreign Office since the accession of Lord Malmesbury to the chief Secretaryship of that department have achieved. With the exception of the Indian rebellion, which may yet require many months of time and a vast expenditure of money entirely to suppress, all the embarrassments with which the political atmosphere was clouded when the present Government came into power have been cleared away, and so far as appearances enable us to form a judgment, our relations with all foreign powers are those of amity and friendship, and likely to continue so.

One circumstance, and one only, would probably tend to interfere with that brighter aspect of affairs which is beginning to dawn upon us, and that is the return of Lord Palmerston to power. Of that noble Lord's intimate knowledge of European politics in every phase and to the minutest detail, there can be no question; it is equally indisputable, that he possesses abilities of the highest order, and experience beyond any statesman of his time: but it is these very qualities combined with the extraordinary mastery of the diplomatic science which the world gives him credit for, that occasion half the difficulties which when he rules the des-

tinies of the nation or directs its foreign policy are sure to present themselves. Foreign governments regard him with distrust, and imagine that there is an *arrière-pensée* in everything he does; and it is the certainty they feel that in dealing with a man of less pretensions, like Lord Malmesbury, his demands are made with the settled determination to enforce them, and his concessions mean literally what they express, without any reservation, that constitutes the secret of that nobleman's success. Upon the consequences of that success there is now reason to believe that the country will soon have reason to congratulate itself. Public confidence is beginning to show signs of revival; an upward movement in the market for public securities has, apparently, set in; discounts are more inquired for; and, if no unexpected *contre-temps* intervene, we may hope ere long to see the vast amount of wealth which has since the beginning of the year been amassing, and which is still locked up useless and unproductive, released from its bonds, and profitably employed in restoring the trade of the country to its wonted activity, and promoting the welfare of all classes of the community.

CROSSED CHEQUES.

THIS important question being immediately to be brought before the House of Commons, the following very lucid exposition of the points in dispute will be read with great attention. The practical knowledge exhibited with the facts of the recent cases decided renders the statement worthy of the full consideration not only of the members of the legislature, but also of all those who are connected with the banking interest of the United Kingdom:—

"The practice of crossing cheques originated with the clerks at the London Clearing-house, who wrote the name of their bank across the cheques they collected or cleared, in order to their identification in case they should not be paid. The customers of the several bankers who were members of the clearing-house soon learned that any cheques drawn by them and paid into a clearing banker's hands need not be provided for until the close of the day; it thus became the practice of the drawers themselves to cross their cheques to ensure their passing through a banker. This was further found to be a great protection against the improper appropriation of cheques so crossed, as the holder could only obtain payment through the medium of a banker through whom the payment could be traced. In process of time this practice became a custom recognised in the courts, and thus obtained the force of law.

"In a well-known case, that of *Bellamy* v. *Majoribanks*, in which it was sought to recover from Coutts and Co. the amount of a cheque drawn upon them and paid to Gosling and Co., although especially

crossed to the Bank of England, Baron Parke, in giving judgment for the defendant, said, 'We see no legal objection to this custom, that of requiring a crossed cheque to be paid only to or through some banker, if thus limited and understood. It is, in our opinion, a reasonable and lawful practice and usage, in order to secure as far as possible payment of cheques to honest and *bonâ fide* holders. We feel strongly that to carry it further, and make the banker answerable to his customers for the appropriation by the payee of the proceeds of a crossed cheque received through a banker, would render the conduct of banking business very difficult, if not impracticable, and would cast a serious and probably mischievous impediment in the way of carrying on the money transactions of this country.' Although the custom well known and invariably acted upon by bankers is thus clearly recognised by the courts, the public do not appear to have been satisfied to bear their share of responsibility or the loss arising from dishonesty of servants in appropriating crossed cheques entrusted to their care, for in the case of *Carlon* v. *Ireland*, where the plaintiff, a solicitor, had given a cheque 'specially' crossed to his clerk, to pay into his banker's, and this clerk obtained the money from a tradesman to whom he was known, and who paid the cheque into the hands of his own bankers, by whom the amount was collected, the plaintiff sought to recover from the tradesman, or in other words to make another bear the loss arising from the default of the plaintiff's servant. This attempt was unsuccessful. Matters remained in this state until the passing of an act, introduced by Mr. Apsley Pellatt, 19th and 20th Vict., cap. 25, June 23, 1856, which enacted that—

"'In every case when a draft on any banker made payable to bearer or to order on demand, bears across its face an addition in written or stamped letters of the name of any banker, or of the words "and Company," in full or abbreviated, either of such additions shall have the force of a direction to the bankers upon whom such draft is made, that the same is to be paid only to or through some bankers, and the same shall be payable only to or through some banker.'

"This act is clear and explicit; but a case has recently arisen, known as *Simmons* v. *Taylor*, the facts of which are briefly as follow: Simmons drew a cheque on the London Joint-stock Bank, and crossed it with two transverse lines, and the words '& Co.;' the cheque fell into dishonest hands, the lines and words '& Co.' were carefully removed, and in that state the cheque was presented and paid. It was sought to make the banker liable for having so paid the cheque which had been crossed, although no vestige of such crossing appeared upon it. This attempt was unsuccessful, and has resulted in the introduction of the present bill, against which I submit the following objections:—

"1. That the banker has at present cast upon him by law a very heavy responsibility, under which no ordinary vigilance or care will guard him from frequent losses. There are—1st. Forgery of endorsements on bills of exchange. In these cases the signatures of the endorsers cannot possibly, in one instance out of a thousand, be known

to the banker. A few years since a London banker was compelled to lose several thousand pounds in consequence of having paid a bill accepted by an insurance company, the forged endorsements actually existing on the bill at the time it was accepted by the company, whose agent was the defrauder. 2. Forged cheques and acceptances. The recent conviction of a gang of forgers, who had successfully for many years carried on their practices, revealed that these men had organised a scheme of a most perfect character, and were able to reproduce signatures so perfect in their imitation of the originals that it became impossible to detect the fraud until after it had been successfully perpetrated.

"In a case in which this bank was defrauded by a series of forged cheques uttered by the clerk of a customer, the execution of the forgeries was so good that the customer himself did not, on the first examination of his paid cheques, detect them all.

"2. The proposed bill is unjust, as it will not only relieve, 1st, the customer of the bank from his fair share of responsibility and risk of loss arising from the dishonesty of his own, or the public servants of the post-office service, but, 2nd, will also relieve from the like responsibility and risks persons with whom the banker, as drawee of a cheque, has no connection; it is far from being an improbable occurrence that a cheque shall be issued uncrossed, be crossed with '& and Co.' by a subsequent holder, and after passing through several hands be the subject of a collusive fraud on the banker.

"3. It will tend to generate on the part of the holders of crossed cheques a want of care and caution in guarding these documents. The following circumstance occurring recently with one of our customers, confirms this conviction:—This house is in the habit of sending through the post cheques payable to 'order,' and in the mistaken belief that the bank was liable for the forgery of endorsements on these documents, admitted that they took no trouble, by requiring an acknowledgment or otherwise, of ascertaining that their remittances had reached the persons for whom they were intended; a draft was lost, and on calling at the bank to stop the payment of it, they were incidentally informed that the bank was not liable on the payment of a draft to 'order,' purporting to be endorsed by the payee, should such endorsement prove to be forged, upon which, in alarm, they immediately stopped the payment of several drafts they had issued payable to 'order,' but of which they had received no acknowledgment.

"4. The examination of the crossing on cheques at the Clearing-house will be very difficult, and frequently quite impracticable. The greatest delivery of cheques for payment through the Clearing-house takes place between half-past three and four o'clock, and after the latter hour no more are received; three-quarters of an hour on ordinary days, and one hour on stock settling days, are allowed for the banker to examine signatures and accounts, and make his entries before payment or return of such cheques as are unpaid; and it is not an unfrequent

occurrence for one banker to have to pay from 2,000 to 3,000 cheques on a settling day, and a proportionate number on ordinary occasions—an examination of the crossings, which must be made within the Clearing-house, and before any entry or other examination is made, becomes impossible within the allotted term.

"We do not complain of those risks incident to a business in which large sums of money are constantly entrusted to the control of numerous clerks, in whose integrity and carefulness great confidence must necessarily be reposed, but we do complain that an attempt should be made to relieve merchants and traders from the necessity of exercising even ordinary vigilance in guarding their cheques, and to throw upon the bankers any loss that may result from frauds against which they cannot protect themselves, and which may in many cases be prevented by the holder of a draft using that care which on every ground of equity and fairness he is bound to do.

"On these grounds I venture to express the hope that this bill will not be allowed to pass into law, and respectfully submit that the law as it at present stands affords every legitimate protection to the holders of drafts.

"WM. MCKEWAN, General Manager.

"London and County Bank, 21, Lombard-street,

"June 18, 1858."

BANKERS' SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY.

THE Governor of the Bank of England has addressed the following communication to Mr. Lilwall on the subject of the memorial lately presented to the corporation:—

"SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th June, containing a memorial addressed to the governor and directors, suggesting the closing of the doors of the Bank of England at two o'clock on Saturdays, accompanied by a list of persons in trade favourable to the practice of early closing, and I have, in compliance with your request, laid the same before the Court. I have, in reply, to inform you that the Bank of England, though at all times disposed to assist in promoting the wishes of the public where they are generally and decidedly expressed, is not in the habit of itself taking the initiative in such movements. The Court, therefore, do not deem it advisable, under the present circumstances, to adopt the suggestion proposed.

"I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

"S. NEAVE, Governor.

"John Lilwall, Esq., Hon. Sec.,

"Early Closing Association."

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to Thursday, June 10 :—

DEBTOR.	F.	C.
Capital of the Bank	91,250,000	0
Ditto, New	91,250,000	0
Profits in addition to capital (Art. 8, Law of June 9, 1857)	1,436,610	35
Reserve of the Bank	12,980,750	14
New reserve	9,125,000	0
Ditto in landed property...	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	548,536,509	0
Ditto of the branch banks	37,011,875	0
Bank notes to order	5,558,500	32
Receipts payable at sight	4,212,930	0
Treasury account-current, creditor	112,639,627	5
Sundry accounts-current...	139,193,201	38
Do. with the branch banks	39,484,252	0
Dividends payable	808,807	25
Discounts and sundry interests	1,486,531	91
Commission on deposits ...	11,145,926	74
Re-discounted during the last-six months	2,209,982	52
Sundries	3,179,549	33
F.	1,106,100,043	99

CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand	229,057,915	12
Cash in the branch banks	281,330.239	0
Commercial bills overdue	203,407	22
Do. discounted, but not due	161,763,628	21
Ditto in the branch banks	187,704,055	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	1,387,100	0
Do. by the branch banks	1,754,100	0
Do. on French public securities	24,480,000	0
Do. by the branch banks	9,016,700	0
Do. on railway securities	49,746,342	06
Do. by the branch banks	17,055,350	0
Do. on Crédit Foncier scrip	271,500	0
Do. on branch banks scrip	116,300	0
Do. to the State on agreement of June 30, 1848...	50,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	12,980,750	14
Ditto disposable	52,188,103	58
New shares, not settled ..	8,253,575	0
Hotel & furniture of the Bk.	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	6,027,364	0
Expenses of the Bank.....	1,733,849	86
Sundries.....	7,029,764	80
F.	1,106,100,043	99

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, DE GERMINY.

The above return shows another extraordinary augmentation of the stock of bullion. The increase in the previous month was £2,400,000, and it is now £2,710,000, bringing the total up to £20,400,000, or more than double the amouut held at the beginning of the year. The French 3 per cents., however, are nearly a half per cent. below the point at which they stood on the 1st of January. The present return indicates a continuance of distrust, which causes all business operations to be restricted as much as possible since the discounts have experienced a further falling off of £1,210,000, making a total reduction of £3,400,000 in the past quarter. The notes in circulation have decreased £280,000, the deposits of the public have increased £492.000, and those of the Treasury £655,000. Under the head of advances on stocks there is a diminution of £96,000, and in those on railways £468,000.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade returns for the month of April were issued on the 26th May. They showed still a considerable falling off in the declared value of our exportations, but of much less extent than was presented during each of the three preceding months of the present year, the average on those occasions having been £1,772,401, while the reduction now is only £534,411. As compared with the same month of

1856 there is an increase of £26,507. Owing to the Eastern demand, the shipments of cotton goods show an augmentation of £327,067. The chief items on the unfavourable side are iron and steel, the orders for America and the colonies being still small. Silk and woollen goods likewise continue to show a decrease. On the whole, however, the return must be considered to furnish some signs of a tendency to revival in most departments of trade. The annexed table exhibits the exact increase or decrease under the several heads :—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Months ending April 30, 1857, and April 30, 1858.	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.
Apparel and slops	£118,383	£121,340	2,957	—
Beer and ale	155,414	204,185	48,771	—
Books	30,903	36,461	5,558	—
Butter	37,744	29,714	—	8,030
Candles	31,231	14,662	—	16,569
Cheese	9,036	9,189	153	—
Coals and culm	287,811	313,361	25,550	—
Cordage...	48,654	20,752	—	27,902
Cottons	2,279,893	2,606,960	327,067	—
Cotton yarn	789,245	785,521	—	3,724
Earthenware	141,870	125,075	—	16,795
Fish	14,446	12,543	—	1,903
Furniture	22,686	27,660	4,974	—
Glass	60,628	50,784	—	9,844
Haberdashery	289,979	245,257	—	44,722
Hardwares	309,279	260,384	—	48,895
Leather	188,211	152,744	—	35,467
Linens	343,165	310,224	—	32,941
Linen yarn	160,395	147,335	—	13,060
Machinery	263,058	325,017	61,959	—
Iron and steel	1,449,782	1,161,644	—	288,138
Copper and brass...	198,220	231,140	32,920	—
Lead	89,642	50,343	—	39,299
Tin	148,737	155,761	7,024	—
Oil seed	87,005	66,800	—	20,205
Painters' colours...	51,183	36,661	—	14,522
Pickles and sauces	20,454	21,652	1,198	—
Plate and jewellery	44,850	35,161	—	9,689
Salt	33,768	37,952	4,184	—
Silks	220,554	133,567	—	86,987
Soap	25,102	21,034	—	4,068
Soda	74,547	80,168	5,621	—
Spirits	93,726	16,084	—	77,642
Stationery	56,415	71,178	14,763	—
Sugar, refined	18,034	22,610	4,576	—
Wool	84,449	60,079	—	24,370
Woollens	729,345	614,791	—	114,554
Woollen Yarn	247,772	159,992	—	87,780
Unenumerated articles	730,228	675,648	—	54,580
Total	9,985,844	9,451,433		

With regard to imported commodities, the arrivals of wheat and flour have again been large, but those of other kinds of grain again show a

great reduction. In all other articles of food and luxury, except tobacco and fruits, the quantities taken into use at length exhibit a falling off, but not more than proportionate with the decline in our exports.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption :—

Months ending April 30, 1857, and April 30, 1858.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Grain, wheat, qrs.	164,787	383,149	164,787	383,149
Grain of other descriptions, qrs.	526,565	248,934	526,565	248,934
Indian corn, qrs....	95,714	141,137	95,714	141,137
Flour and meal, cwt.	153,203	364,850	153,203	364,850
Provisions—Bacon, &c. &c., cwt.	108,811	99,454	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt.	69,119	77,787	72,006	76,948
Animals, No.	6,167	4,199	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	13,903,000	15,722,200	13,878,400	15,722,200
Cocoa, lb.	876,224	850,513	367,097	228,378
Coffee, lb.	5,123,504	5,316,665	6,617,195	3,089,433
Sugar, cwt.	748,887	880,323	868,657	788,148
Tea, lb....	8,627,211	8,494,067	14,997,310	6,563,321
Rice, cwt.	232,366	339,968	92,110	146,643
Spirits, gallons	812,204	881,714	398,639	356,524
Wines, gallons	1,014,692	498,243	650,166	583,767
Tobacco, lb.	3,915,029	1,620,611	2,724,659	2,733,337
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt...	35,949	26,557	25,402	40,426
Lemons and oranges, bushels ...	80,990	148,746	84,601	138,285
Spices, lb.	837,259	1,473,520	330,480	314,426
Ditto, cwt.	5,145	6,675	1,007	1,762

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing a decline in each case, except in hemp and cotton:

Months ending April 30, 1857, and April 30, 1858.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Flax, cwt.	99,330	38,461	—	—
Hemp, cwt	86,660	116,028	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	1,188,801	731,079	139,984	225,719
Cotton, cwt....	1,172,382	1,319,514	137,186	84,309
Wool, lb.	11,376,609	9,188,890	1,385,155	833,545
Tallow, cwt.	58,696	36,587	4,039	264

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Months ending April 30, 1857, and April 30, 1858.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	56,726	71,120	55,592	70,862
Ditto of India, pieces	50,633	19,096	9,778	5,798

THE EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW BANK, AND THE CLYDESDALE BANKING COMPANY.

THE Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank, which would appear to have been struggling against adverse circumstances for the last ten years, and which sustained a severe shock in the late commercial crisis, has now made arrangements for disposing of its business, assets, and obligations, and handing them over to the Clydesdale Banking Company. The capital of the concern was originally £1,000,000, but soon after the late crisis it was proposed by the directors, and agreed to by the proprietary, that one-half of that sum should be written off, and the capital fixed at £500,000. This result which was accompanied by a consolidation of the new stock into £100 shares, was ascribed not so much to recent losses as to the bank having been unable to overcome the effect of transactions entered into previous to 1847-8. The remedy, however, now appears to have been a totally inadequate one. In the report presented to a general meeting of the shareholders at Edinburgh, on Thursday, June 10, the directors say:—"Notwithstanding the unanimity of the partners at the meetings held in Glasgow and Edinburgh on the 4th and 5th of February last, and the implied pledges then given that the bank would receive their cordial support, the directors regret to state that the opposite has in many instances been the result. For about three months after these meetings the business of the bank remained good. New accounts were opened, and the deposits continued steady—thus giving the directors every hope that more prosperous times were awaiting them. Early in the past month, however, these promising appearances began to fail through the continued action of the partners themselves upon the stock of the bank, many of them having thrown their shares unreservedly upon the market, which has ultimately resulted in serious detriment to the establishment. During this panic various deputations of the shareholders waited upon the directors, urging an investigation into the affairs of the bank. So soon as it became known that a committee of partners had resolved to employ an accountant, the effect on the public was the withdrawal of deposits, and the consequent diminution of the available resources of the bank for conducting its business, and this was accompanied by a great fall in the price of stock. In these circumstances the directors had no alternative but an immediate endeavour to arrange an amalgamation with another bank." The effect of the panic referred to was certainly a very rapid fall in the new £100 stock of the bank, which stood at £90 10*s*. on the 19th of May, and had fallen to £51 10*s*. by the 7th of June. On the last mentioned date the report above referred to was issued, and since then the stock was not quoted in the market at all, and much uncertainty prevailed as to its value. The report proceeded to state that the heads of an agreement were arranged with the Clydesdale Bank, whereby, in return for making over the whole assets of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank, the partners of the latter should receive stock to the amount of 30,000 shares at the price of £12 per share, provided assets to the value of £360,000 should be realised, but that in the course of the negotiations, and in consequence of the investigations made into their affairs by the Clydesdale Bank, "less favourable" views were entertained by the Clydesdale directors, and the report added that, "in consequence of these views, the directors (of the Edinburgh and Glasgow) ultimately proposed that, in place of 30,000 shares at £12 per share, the partners of this bank should be entitled in June next to receive 15,000 shares at £11 per share, upon assets being realised or cash paid to

the amount of £165,000; and to this the Clydesdale Company have, in the circumstances, agreed." The articles and conditions of agreement and union provide "that the whole property and business of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank shall be delivered over to the Clydesdale Banking Company on the morning of the 21st of June current, the former's right of circulation and issue being included in the transference; that thenceforth the united businesses of the two banks shall be carried on under the name of the 'Clydesdale Banking Company;' that the latter shall undertake to pay the deposits, and retire the notes in circulation of the former, and on the 21st of June the Edinburgh and Glasgow shall be debited with the amount of said deposits and circulation; and, on the other hand, all assets shall, as they are realised, be credited to them, but the privilege of authorised circulation shall not be held as an asset; that the assets, properties, and securities of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank shall, as far as practicable, be collected and realised before the 13th of June, 1860, and whatever assets may remain unrealised shall then be taken over at a valuation; that on or before the 1st of July, 1859, the Clydesdale Banking Company shall give over to trustees appointed by the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank, for division among the partners, shares of the stock of the Clydesdale, not exceeding 15,000, on which £10 per share has been paid, at the price of £11 per share, provided that the assets as realised or valued at the 8th of June, 1859, shall amount to not less than £165,000—if they do not reach that value, then an amount of shares corresponding to the net sum realised, or valued, or paid in, shall be given over; but, on the other hand, any surplus of assets that may arise over the said sum shall be divided among the partners of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank; and that the Clydesdale Company shall continue at their discretion bill discounting and advancing of cash to parties who at present do business with, or are under engagements to, the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank." The above report and articles of union were submitted to the meeting and were unanimously approved, but not without a good deal of hard hitting and cross questioning at the directors. With reference to the Clydesdale Bank, it may be stated that their £10 shares are, at the period alluded to, selling at £13 (their dividend being 7 per cent.), so that their giving the shareholders of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank 15,000 of their shares at £1 instead of £3 premium. would be something like paying £30,000 for the acquisition of their business and circulation. On the assumption—and so far as it appears it is nothing more—that the assets will amount to £165,000, this arrangement will give the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank partners £150,000 of nominal capital, but £195,000 of present market value, in lieu of their £500,000, or rather £1,000,000 of original capital. At the meeting, a protest was served on the directors, in behalf of shareholders who had purchased stock since February last, holding the directors liable for the price of the same, on the ground that the report laid before the meetings of the proprietors in February did not represent the true condition of the bank's affairs, and counsel was retained to follow up the protest by litigation. It was admitted by the directors, that since February last they had bought in stock of the nominal value of £43,092, at a cost of £43,887. It was stated that the number of shareholders was about 1,400, and that the nominal value of their holdings was about £360,000. The fact was likewise elicited that the directors of the Clydesdale Bank, and also the accountant employed by the committee of proprietors to investigate, did not think that the assets of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank would amount to £165,000, and, therefore, to carry out the amalgamation with the former, a call would, in their opinion, necessarily have to be made

on the shareholders of the latter. Ten trustees were appointed to carry out the amalgamation, four being selected from the present directors, and six from the shareholders. The meeting (to which the representatives of the press were not admitted) was a very angry one. About 400 or 500 persons were present.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. R. BAINBRIDGE AND CO.

An adjourned meeting of creditors of Messrs. R. Bainbridge and Co., of London and New York, who suspended during the late crisis, took place on the 4th of June. From the report of a committee appointed on the 5th of January it appeared that a confidential agent was despatched to New York. After considerable difficulties, which led to the waste of much valuable time, he was permitted by Mr. Bainbridge to examine the books and accounts, and found them to be in such utter disorder that it was impossible readily to discover the actual position of affairs. Many of the balances were thus supplied by Mr. Bainbridge himself, and not from the books, particularly the estimates of the stock in trade and real estate. These were taken too low; and, again, the claims of the English creditors were calculated at an unduly high rate of exchange. The result was that there was a difference in the valuation of assets by the two parties, Mr. Bainbridge and the creditors' agent, of £12,000. Supposing the statement of the latter to be correct, there was sufficient to pay in full. No legal means, however, exist to enforce the claims of the creditors, except by an expensive and doubtful course, there being no Court of Bankruptcy in New York. In the meantime the usual preferential payments had been made, the American creditors receiving the whole of their claims, which had the following effect:—The total net liabilities as assented to by the insolvent were £47,000, with admitted assets of £37,000, or about 15*s.* 9*d.* in the pound. Providing for the American claims, however, the matter stands thus:—Assets, £17,000, to meet English debts of £27,000, or about 12*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. This calculation was irrespective of the amount in dispute as understated. Mr. Bainbridge, without attempting to controvert the positions of the agent of the creditors, had already determined on his course of action, and offered a composition of 12*s.*, boldly stating the estate would realise no more. After considerable delay and long negotiations, an agreement was at length come to to pay all claims under £10 in full in two months from the 17th of March, 12*s.* 6*d.* on claims between £10, and £100 in six months from the 20th of March, and 13*s.* 4*d.* in four instalments extending over two years from the 10th of February on debts of £100 and upwards. A guarantee was at first positively refused, and it was only after repeated pressure that certain securities were obtained, worth about £10,000, or nearly 9*s.* 6*d.* in the pound of the composition. The report concluded with a recommendation that the terms be accepted, and accordingly a resolution to that effect was passed unanimously.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. RAWSON, SONS AND CO.

A meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Rawson, Sons and Co., engaged in the East India and China trade, whose suspension took place on the 2nd June, was held on the 8th, when the following satisfactory statement, showing a surplus of £48,000, was presented by Mr. J. E. Coleman, of the firm of Messrs. Coleman, Turquand, Youngs, and Co.:—

Dr.

To creditors on open accounts		£39,344	0 0
Creditors on bills payable	£489,634 0 0		
Less, expected to be provided for by parties for whose account the bills were accepted	125,038 0 0		
Amount to rank on this estate ...		364,596	0 0
Creditors partially secured ...	156,731 0 0		
Securities held	138,520 0 0		
		18,211	0 0
Creditors fully secured—			
Securities held	359,891 0 0		
Claims	274,923 0 0		
Contra	£84,968 0 0		
Liabilities on bills receivable, £297,310 12*s.* 3*d.*, the whole of which will be duly honoured at maturity			
		£422,151	0 0

Cr.

By cash balance	£2,613	0 0
Bills receivable on hand	22,733	0 0
Sundry assets, consisting of shares, &c.	650	0 0
Debtors, good	36,506	0 0
Debtors after taking up the bills accepted for their account	13,067	0 0
Produce on hand	12,580	0 0
Surplus from creditors holding securities, contra ...	84,968	0 0
Amount of various exports estimated at	125,000	0 0
Amount standing to the debit of Blenkin, Rawson and Co., of China	32,902	0 0
Ditto, Ker, Rawson and Co., Singapore	7,365	0 0
Ditto, Leach, Rawson and Co., Calcutta	42,940	0 0
Capital of T. S. Rawson and S. Rawson, in the firms of Blenkin, Rawson and Co., and Ker, Rawson and Co.	53,560	0 0
Estimated proportion of commission and profits since April 30, 1857	22,500	0 0
Sundries from the separate estates of the partners	12,595	0 0
	£457,399	0 9
Creditors to be paid in full £522		

It was explained by Mr. Coleman, that although the present is only a *pro forma* statement, it shows, as nearly as possible, the correct position of the firm, and that in consequence of the admirable manner in which the books and accounts have been kept he has been enabled to lay the results thus early before the creditors, so that they may be communicated by the mail which leaves on the 9th. With respect to the aggregate of liabilities, £125,000 of the bills will be taken up, leaving only £364,000 as chargeable against the estate. Of the bills receivable, representing £300,000, the whole will, it is thought, be met, and they are not likely to constitute the least liability. The assets are of a favourable character, and the cash and bills may be considered a very respectable item. The good debts principally consist of balances due from correspondents, brokers, and

prompts, all of which will be speedily available. It appears that the produce in hand, and the surplus produced after the payments of the loans, amounting to £97,548, has been estimated at the value on the date of the suspension, and that also a portion has been taken at prices at which offers have been actually made, while some descriptions have slightly advanced in value since the estimate was completed. In connection with the exports, calculated to produce £125.000, it is believed that they will before this have been sold, and that the proceeds will be in course of remittance. About two-thirds of the amount will, according to the examination, be receivable by the shippers, and must go in reduction of acceptances to a similar extent, and the remaining third will be appropriated to the general creditors. It is stated that the balances due from the China, Singapore, and Calcutta houses, amounting to £83,216, the £33,560 of the capital of T. S. Rawson and S. Rawson, and the £22,500 the proportion of commission and profits, were all ordered, in December and January last, to be forwarded to this country, and that an acknowledgment of the request has been received. It is, therefore, anticipated that the bills to represent the greater amount are also in course of transmission. No doubt is entertained of the value of the India and China assets, since they have been thoroughly investigated and reported upon by a gentleman of experience from Manchester. In answer to questions it was intimated that Mr. T. S. Rawson and Mr. S. Rawson are directly interested in the houses in India, Singapore, and China, and that Mr. C. Rawson possesses an indirect interest through the father. The cause of suspension has been the absence of remittances, and the indisposition to force £400,000 produce in the hands of creditors as security suddenly upon the markets. The reason of the private estates appearing for so small a total is, that the senior partner has, not long since, brought in £83,000, independently of other contributions previously, to meet the recent losses, which are taken in round numbers at £125,000. These explanations having been received as satisfactory, Mr. Charles Freshfield submitted the propriety of effecting a liquidation under inspection. The application of bankruptcy to an estate of this description would be highly prejudicial, and not warranted by the circumstances of the case. The assets showed 20*s.* in the pound, with a large surplus, including the private property of the partners; and if the usual process were adopted, the house could recommence business without interruption. The opinion of the creditors being unanimously in favour of this proceeding, after a short conversation, during which it was stated that no bills can come back from India or China unless they are document bills, resolutions were at once passed agreeing to the proposition. At the close of the discussion it was distinctly understood that the houses abroad should be advised by the morrow's mail, that without they feel themselves perfectly competent to meet all maturing engagements it will be their duty immediately to suspend, and not to allow any priority or preference, Before the meeting finally separated a strong feeling was expressed with regard to the honourable conduct exhibited by the partners, and to the satisfactory position in which the accounts were found, confidence at the same time being entertained in the result of the liquidation. Annexed are the resolutions, passed in official form :—

At a meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Rawson, Sons and Co., held at their offices, No. 62, Moorgate-street, on Tuesday, the 8th day of June, 1858, Mr. Richard Durant in the chair, Mr. Coleman, the accountant, produced and read to the meeting a statement of the liabilities and assets.

It was proposed and seconded, and resolved unanimously—

"1. That it is the opinion of the meeting that the affairs of the house should be liquidated under inspectorship, and that the following gentlemen be the inspectors:—George Dewhurst, Esq., Alexander Mackenzie, Esq., and W. Lyon, Esq. 2. That a proper deed of inspectorship be prepared under the approval of the inspectors, and be executed by or on behalf of each creditor, on or before payment of the first dividend. 3. That such deed shall contain covenants by the partners to liquidate the affairs of the house according to the rules of administration adopted in bankruptcy, and covenant by the creditors not to sue, which shall operate as a release upon the inspectors certifying that the liquidation has proceeded sufficiently, and upon the partners executing an assignment of any remaining assets to trustees for distribution among the creditors. 4. That such deed shall be a deed of arrangement, within the meaning of the 224th section of the Bankrupt Law Consolidation Act, and the 228th section shall be applicable thereto, and the creditors executing it shall not be prejudiced as to any securities or lien they may be entitled to, or as to their rights against third parties. 5. That the private property of the partners, after payment of their separate liabilities, shall be applied in the payment of the debts of the firm, according to the rules of distribution in bankruptcy. 6. That the inspectors shall have power to make to the partners such allowance as they may think fit for their services. 7. That instructions be sent out by the mail on the morrow, to the several firms in India and China, to adopt all necessary measures for protection of consigned goods and their proceeds, and to send home statements of all goods on hand and account sales of such as have been sold, with remittances direct to the respective consignees where no advances have been made. 8. That the partners be at liberty to transact business on their own account, on their covenanting in the inspectorship deed not to use either directly or indirectly any of the existing assets of the firm, and to incur no new engagements which could by any possibility be thrown on the existing assets."

(Signed) R. Durant, Chairman.

Banking and Commercial Law.

PENDING MEASURES FOR ALTERING THE LAW RELATING TO BANKING AND COMMERCE.

We present our readers with three bills now before Parliament, which there is every reason to suppose will become law.

The first of these relates to crossed cheques, and is intended to reverse the late decision which declared that the crossing was not a material part of the cheque, a decision which we have already discussed, and which might have been supported on better grounds than those given by the court, because we think that, even supposing the crossing to be a material part of the cheque, yet, if it is written in the cheque so carelessly as to invite fraud, that the banker cannot, consistently with principle or authority, be held responsible for not observing it. The proposed measure will place serious liabilities on bankers, all of which it may be impossible to foresee; but one will be to

expose the banker to demands and actions, at the instance of persons who are not customers of the bank, but who may happen to become holders of cheques on which they have placed a crossing. This is carrying the effect of crossing much further than has ever yet been contemplated.

The next measure is one for limiting the liability of joint-stock banks. There are many who think this will diminish public confidence in the security of such institutions, and that the real amendment required, is to establish proper machinery for fairly enforcing the unlimited liability.

The next measure is avowedly only temporary—the Government having promised next session to bring in a bill to consolidate the law of joint-stock companies, recent legislation having brought it to a perfect chaos, in which, even the courts of justice, got utterly bewildered and lost.

A Bill (as amended in Committee) to amend the Law relating to Cheques or Drafts on Bankers.

I. WHENEVER a cheque or draft on any banker, payable to bearer, or to order, on demand, shall be issued, crossed with the name of a banker, or with two tranverse lines with the words "and company" or any abbreviation thereof, such crossing shall be deemed a material part of the cheque or draft, and, except as hereafter mentioned, shall not be obliterated or added to or altered by any person whomsoever after the issuing thereof; and the banker upon whom such cheque or draft shall be drawn shall not pay such cheque or draft to any other than the banker with whose name such cheque or draft shall be so crossed, or, if the same be crossed as aforesaid without a banker's name, to any other than a banker.

II. Whenever any such cheque or draft shall have been issued uncrossed, or crossed with the words "and company" or any abbreviation thereof, and without the name of any banker, any lawful holder of such cheque or draft, while the same remains so uncrossed, or crossed with the words "and company" or any abbreviation thereof, without the name of any banker, may cross the same with the name of a banker; and such last-mentioned crossing shall be deemed a material part of the cheque or draft, and shall not be obliterated or added to or altered by any person whomsoever after the making thereof; and the banker upon whom such cheque or draft shall be drawn shall not pay such cheque or draft to any other than the banker with whose name such cheque or draft shall be so crossed as last aforesaid.

III. In the construction of this act the word "banker" shall include any person or persons, or corporation or joint-stock company, acting as a banker or bankers.

A Bill to enable Joint Stock Banking Companies to be formed on the Principle of Limited Liability.

I. So much of the Joint Stock Banking Companies Act, 1857, as prohibits a banking company from being formed under that act with limited liability, or prohibits an existing banking company from being registered under that act with limited liability, shall be repealed, subject to the fol-

lowing proviso, that no banking company claiming to issue notes in England or Wales shall be entitled to be registered as a limited company until it shall have relinquished such privilege under the twenty-fourth section of the seventh and eighth Victoria, chapter thirty-two.

II. The registration of a banking company under the Joint Stock Banking Companies Act, 1857, or under any other act, shall not prejudice the right of such company to register itself again as a limited company under the said Joint Stock Banking Companies Act, 1857, and the acts incorporated therewith.

III. Every limited joint stock banking company shall, before it commences business, and also on the first day of January in every year during which it carries on business, annex to a copy of the memorandum of association a statement of the number of shares issued, and the amount of deposit or calls made on each share, in the form contained in the schedule hereto, or as near thereto as circumstances will admit, and a copy of such memorandum, with such statement annexed thereto, shall be put up in a conspicuous place in the registered office of the company; and if default is made in due compliance with the provisions of this section, each director shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5 for every day during which such default continues, and such penalties shall be recovered in a summary manner.

IV. Limited joint stock banking companies shall be wound up in the same manner and under the same jurisdiction as that in and under which joint stock banking companies other than limited are required to be wound up by the Joint Stock Banking Companies Act, 1857.

SCHEDULE referred to in the foregoing Act.

Form of Statement to be annexed to the Memorandum of Association.

The number of shares issued is 10,000.

Calls to the amount of £20 per share have been made, under which the sum of £180,000 has been received,

Dated the 1st of January, 1859.

A Bill to amend the Joint Stock Companies Acts, 1856 and 1857, and the Joint Stock Banking Companies Act, 1857.

WHEREAS by the nineteenth section of "The Joint Stock Companies Act, 1857," it is amongst other things provided, that where a company is in course of being wound up voluntarily, and proceedings are taken for having the same wound up by the court, the court may, instead of making an order that the company should be altogether wound up by the court, direct that the voluntary winding-up should continue, but subject to such supervision of the court, and with such liberty for creditors, contributories, and others to apply to the court, and generally upon such terms and subject to such conditions as the court thinks just: and whereas it is expedient to make further provision for enabling companies to be wound up in manner directed by the said nineteenth section: and whereas it is expedient to explain and amend the acts hereinafter referred to as the "Joint Stock Companies Acts," that is to say, "The Joint Stock Companies Act, 1856," "The Joint Stock Companies Act, 1857," and "The Joint Stock Banking Companies Act, 1857," be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows,

I. This act may be cited for all purposes as "The Joint Stock Com-

panies Amendment Act, 1858," and it shall be included in the expression "Joint Stock Companies Acts," as hereinafter used, unless there is something in the context inconsistent with its being so included.

II. A petition praying wholly or in part that a voluntary winding-up may continue, subject to the supervision of the court, shall, for the purpose of giving jurisdiction to the court over suits and actions, and over the appointment of a receiver, be deemed to be a petition for winding up the company by the court; and in determinining whether a company is to be wound up altogether compulsorily or under the provisions of the said nineteenth section, the court may have regard to the wishes of the majority in number and value of the creditors as proved to it by any sufficient evidence.

III. Where any order is made by the court, in pursuance of the said nineteenth section, for the continuance of a voluntary winding-up, the court may in such order or in any subsequent order appoint any additional liquidator or liquidators; and any liquidator or liquidators so appointed by the court shall have the same powers, be subject to the same obligations, and in all respects stand in the same position as if they had been appointed by the company: the court may from time to time remove any liquidator or liquidators so appointed by the court, and fill up any vacancy occasioned by such removal, or by the death or resignation of any such liquidator or liquidators: the court shall in the appointment of a liquidator or liquidators under this section consult any creditor or classes of creditors it may think expedient to consult for the purpose of ascertaining what appointments are most for the interest of the creditors.

IV. Where an order is made by the court, in pursuance of the said nineteenth section, for the continuance of a voluntary winding-up, the liquidators appointed to conduct such winding-up may, subject to any order made by the court, exercise all powers given to them, without the intervention of the court, in the same manner as if the company were being wound up altogether voluntarily; but, save as aforesaid, any order made by the court, in pursuance of the said nineteenth section, for the continuance of a voluntary winding-up, shall for all purposes, including the application of any provision relating to fraudulent preference, be deemed to be an order of the court for winding up the company by the court, and shall confer full authority on the court to make calls, or to enforce calls made by the liquidators, and to exercise all other powers which it might have exercised of its own motion, or on the application of the official liquidators, if an order had been made for winding up the company altogether by the court.

V. Where an order has been made for winding up a company compulsory, or where an order has been made, in pursuance of the said nineteenth section, for the continuance of a voluntary winding-up, no suit, action, or other legal proceeding shall be proceeded with or commenced against the company or the public officer thereof, or any member of the company, in respect of a debt of the company, except with the leave of the court, and subject to such terms as the court may impose.

VI. Where an order has been made for winding up a company compulsorily, or where an order has been made, in pursuance of the said nineteenth section, for the continuance of a voluntary winding-up, the court may make such order as it thinks just as to the inspection by the creditors and contributories of books and papers of the company, and such books and papers may be inspected by the creditors or contributories, in conformity with such order of the court, but not further or otherwise.

VII. Where an order has been made in pursuance of the said nineteenth

section for the continuance of a voluntary winding-up, and such order is afterwards superseded by an order directing the company to be wound-up compulsorily, the court may in such last-mentioned order, or in any subsequent order, appoint the voluntary liquidators, or any of them, either provisionally or permanently, and either with or without the addition of any other persons, to be official liquidators.

VIII. Where the court makes an order for winding up a company compulsorily, it may, if it thinks fit, provide by that or any subsequent order that the official liquidators may exercise any specified powers without the intervention of the court.

IX. Where an order has been made for winding up a company compulsorily, or where an order has been made, in pursuance of the said nineteenth section, for the continuance of a voluntary winding-up, the liquidators may, with the sanction of the court, at any stage of the winding-up, pay any classes of creditors in full, or make such other arrangement with creditors as the court may sanction; and any general or partial scheme of liquidation, if approved of by the court, shall be binding on all the creditors and contributories of the company.

X. The practice hitherto in use in the Court of Chancery in England, in winding up companies, under "The Joint Stock Companies Winding-up Act, 1848," and "The Joint Stock Companies Winding-up Act, 1849," including the service of summonses, notices, and other documents by post, and including the payment of a per-centage in lieu of fees to the suitors' fee fund, the non-entry of orders at the registry office, and all powers and jurisdictions given to the said Court of Chancery by the said acts, and not conferred by the Joint Stock Companies Acts, shall be applicable to the winding-up under the said Joint Stock Companies Acts of companies by the Courts of Chancery and Courts of Bankruptcy in England, until rules for regulating such winding-up are made in pursuance of the powers for that purpose given by the said Joint Stock Companies Acts; and the Courts of Chancery and Courts of Bankruptcy in England may adopt such practice, powers, and jurisdictions to the same extent as if the companies were being wound-up under "The Joint Stock Companies Winding-up Act, 1848," and "The Joint Stock Companies Winding-up Act, 1849,"

XI. Any order made by the court in England for or in the course of the winding-up of a company under the Joint Stock Companies Acts shall be enforced in Scotland and Ireland in the courts that would respectively have had jurisdiction in respect of such company, if the registered office of the company had been established in Scotland or Ireland and in the same manner in all respects as if such order had been made by the courts that are hereby required to enforce the same; and, similarly, orders made by court in Scotland, for or in the course of winding-up a company shall be enforced in England and Ireland, and orders made by the court in Ireland for or in the course of winding-up a company shall be enforced in England and Scotland by the courts which would respectively have had jurisdiction in the matter of such company, if the registered office of the company were established in each division of the United Kingdom where the order is required to be enforced, and in the same manner in all respects as if such order had been made by the court required to enforce the same in the case of a company within its own jurisdiction.

XII. Where any order made by one court is required to be enforced by another court, as hereinbefore provided, an office copy of the order so made shall be produced to the proper officer of the court required to enforce the same, and the production of such office copy shall be sufficient evidence

of such order having been made; and thereupon such last-mentioned court shall cause such order to be registered, or shall take such other steps in the matter as may be requisite for enforcing such order, in the same manner as if it were the order of the court enforcing the same.

XIII. Where a company is being wound up altogether voluntarily, the liquidators may apply to the Court by petition, motion, the presentation of a special case, or in such other manner as the Court may direct, to determine any question arising in the matter of such winding-up, or to exercise, as respects the enforcing any calls, or in respect of any other particular matter, all or any of the powers which the Court might exercise if the company were being wound up compulsorily; and the Court, if satisfied that the determination of such question, or the required exercise of power, will be just and beneficial, may accede wholly or partially to such application, upon such terms and subject to such conditions as the Court thinks fit, or it may make such other order on such application as the Court thinks just.

XIV. Where any company is being wound up altogether voluntarily, or is being wound up subject to the provisions of the said nineteenth section, the company in general meeting may fill up any vacancy occasioned by the death or resignation of any liquidator or liquidators appointed by the company.

XV. In case of any company being wound up compulsorily, the liquidators may invest any moneys for the time being in their hands, or standing to their credit in the Bank of England, arising from such winding-up, in Government securities, including Exchequer bills.

XVI. In fixing the amount payable by any contributory, in pursuance of the Joint Stock Companies Acts or any of them, he shall be debited with the amount of all debts due from him to the company, including the amount of the call, and shall be credited with all sums due to him from the company on any independent contract or dealing between him and the company, and the balance, after making such debit and credit as aforesaid, shall be deemed to be the sum due.

XVII. All calls and liabilities to calls made or to be made on any shareholder or contributory, in pursuance of any of the Joint Stock Companies Acts, shall, in the event of such shareholder or contributory becoming bankrupt or insolvent, be proveable against his estate.

XVIII. The sixteenth section of "The Joint Stock Companies Act, 1857," shall be repealed; and in lieu thereof be it enacted as follows:—The liquidators shall have power to compromise all calls and liabilities to calls, debts, and liabilities capable of resulting in debts, and all claims whether present or future, certain or contingent, ascertained, or sounding only in damages, subsisting or supposed to subsist between the company and any contributory or alleged contributory, or other debtor or person apprehending liability to the company, upon receipt of such sums, payable at such times, and generally upon such terms as may be agreed upon, with power to the liquidators to take any security for the discharge of such debts or liabilities, and to give complete discharges in respect of all or any such calls, debts, or liabilities; subject to the proviso, that where an order has been made by the Court for winding up a company compulsorily, or where an order has been made, in pursuance of the said nineteenth section, for the continuance of a voluntary winding-up, no such compromise shall be made, except in accordance with the directions of the court, as expressed generally in any order made by the court, or as given in each particular case; and that where a company is being wound up altogether

voluntarily, no such compromise shall be effected, except with the sanction of a special resolution of the company, or of a general or particular power delegated to the liquidators by a special resolution.

XIX. Where any order is made for winding up a company compulsorily, or for the continuance of a voluntary winding-up, subject to the provisions of the said nineteenth section, if it appear in the course of such winding-up that any past or existing director, manager, public officer, or member of such company has been guilty of any offence in relation to the company for which he is criminally responsible, the court may, on the application of any person interested in such winding-up, or of its own motion, cause a report of such offence to be laid before Her Majesty's Attorney General, in order that all proper proceedings may be taken for the punishment of such offence.

XX. Where a company is being wound up altogether voluntarily, if it appear to the liquidators conducting such winding-up that any past or existing director, manager, public officer, or member of such company has been guilty of any offence in relation to the company for which he is criminally responsible, it shall be lawful for the liquidators to prosecute such offender, and all expenses properly incurred by them in such prosecution shall be payable out of the assets of the company in priority to all other liabilities.

XXI. The hundred and sixteenth section of "The Joint Stock Companies Act, 1856," shall not apply to companies registered under "The Joint Stock Banking Companies Act, 1857."

XXII. This act shall apply in cases where an order has been already made for winding up a company compulsorily, or where an order has been made, in pursuance of the nineteenth section, for the continuance of a voluntary winding-up, or where a company is in the course of being wound up altogether voluntarily.

XXIII. Any company or copartnership, consisting of seven or more persons, having by its constitution a capital of fixed amount, divided into shares, also of fixed amount, if it legally carried on the business of banking previously to "The Banking Companies Act, 1857," is entitled to register itself or to continue registered under "The Joint Stock Banking Companies Act, 1857," for the purpose of winding up under that act, and if it legally carried on any other business than banking, except that of insurance, previously to the passing of "The Joint Stock Companies Act, 1856," is entitled to register itself or to continue registered under "The Joint Stock Companies Act, 1856," or the Joint Stock Companies Acts, 1856, 1857, for the purpose of winding up under those acts.

XXIV. This act shall extend to the provisions of the Joint Stock Companies Acts, 1856, 1857, incorporated with "The Joint Stock Banking Companies Act, 1857."

Legal Miscellany.

THE HASTINGS BANK.—IN RE TILDEN SMITH.

At the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 7th May, Mr. Commissioner Fane gave judgment on the application of Mr. Tilden Smith, one of the partners in the Hastings Bank, for his certificate. His Honour said,—After carefully reflecting on the circumstances of this case, and having regard to the fact that Mr. Tilden's private assets will probably not realise more than 4*s.* or

5s. in the pound, I cannot give him a first-class certificate, though I admit that in not placing himself in the hands of his creditors at an earlier period he was influenced by circumstances against which it required great strength of character to contend successfully. I am sorry to find myself obliged to withhold from him the first-class certificate I have had a pleasure in giving two of his partners in misfortune.—Second-class certificate granted.

THE GRAVESEND AND DARTFORD BANK.—IN RE JONATHAN AND ROBERT HILLS.

At the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 11th of May, there was a meeting to lay before Mr Commissioner Fonblanque the accounts relating to the estate of these bankrupts.

Their accounts extend from June 14th, 1851, to December, 19th, 1857, and contain the following items:—Dr., Unsecured creditors, £36,961; secured creditors, £14,166; the property held being valued at £10,163; liabilities on bills, £13,782; of which £2,000 are expected to come against the estate; capital of J. Hills on the 14th of June, 1851, £2,270; capital of R. Hills at the same date, £1,191; capital since brought in by J. Hills, £10,520; ditto, by R. Hills, £2,420; gross profits, £11,142. Cr., Property, £621; debtors, estimated to realise £4,207; trade expenses, £8,990; R. Hills' drawings, £16,229; losses, £10,460, of which £33,097 are by bad and doubtful debts. The Commercial Bank of London, as secured creditors for £14,166, hold title deeds, shares, &c., valued at £10,163, but their right to retain the whole of which is questioned. The debtors to the bankrupts' estate include Henry Gibson, £16,184; Walter Hills, Gravesend, £5,834; William Hills, Milton, next Gravesend, £502; Thomas Hassall, Australia, £1,863; E. E. Tomlinson, Barn's Cray, Kent, £5,214. Upon these accounts the official assignee (Mr. Graham) reports as follows:—That the alleged capital of £3,461, in June, 1851, is fallacious. Robert Hills, who is stated to have then possessed a surplus of £1,191, was indebted to the bank at the time £3,000, which made an actual deficiency of £1,808. Besides this, J. and R. Hill had been up to that date in partnership with one Donald M'Rae, and who died on the 14th of June, 1851. Donald M'Rae's account was overdrawn above £9,000, which was taken as a good debt, but upon this there has been a loss of £5,154. All the debts due to the firm of Hills and M'Rae were taken as good except £1,218, but as the debts had turned out there had been a loss by them of £9,425. The estate was thus largely insolvent on the 14th of June, 1851, instead of having a surplus.

This was the examination meeting.

Mr. Lawrance, for the assignees, said they did not object to the bankrupts' accounts, but as Mr. Bagley appeared for certain creditors, and wished for an adjournment, in order that a private examination of the younger bankrupt might be held, he felt it his duty to accede. It was the wish of his clients that every facility should be afforded to every creditor. Mr. Lawrance proceeded to refer to the principal items set forth in the bankrupts' balance-sheet. It was apparent from them and the report of the official assignee that the bank was insolvent in 1851, and that the insolvency had been progressively increasing. The assignees believed that they should succeed in recovering a portion of the securities held by the Commercial Bank, the said securities consisting of shares which, having been allowed to remain registered in the bankrupt's (Robert Hills) name, were, it was contended, the property of the assignees. These shares were valued at £2,420. There were certain shares

registered for convenience in the name of Robert Hills, which belonged to the joint estate. On the same principle as that already referred to, these shares might belong to the private estate of Robert Hills, but as that estate showed a surplus of £830 they would necessarily go to the joint estate. In further illustration of the insolvency of the bank in 1851, it might be stated that since that period large sums had been paid by the bankrupts on account of mining shares, and which said shares were now of reduced value. The assignees wished it to be distinctly understood that they did not hold themselves precluded from going into the figures in the bankrupts' balance-sheet so far as they had reference to the question of certificate.

Mr. Bagley, for Mr. Smith, the petitioning creditor, said, the case was of such importance that the bankrupts ought not to be allowed to pass at this stage of the proceedings. Thus far there had been no examination of the bankrupts. The balance-sheet disclosed features so remarkable as to challenge observation and render necessary future inquiry. These was an enormous amount of losses by bad debts, and the large drawing account of the partners was open to remark. The bankrupts could not be allowed to pass without explanation. The interests of public justice required that there should be an investigation, and it was not surprising that the assignees should have fallen into this view.

The Commissioner said, that when individual creditors took upon themselves to institute investigations they must abide by the decision of the Court as to costs.

Mr. Lawrance said, he would not object to the payment of the costs in question should the inquiry lead to anything material being elicited.

Mr. Hilleary, for the bankrupts, said, they courted inquiry. It would be impossible, however, that the senior bankrupt, who was of advanced age, could be examined. He was at the present time so ill as to be insensible, and no hope was entertained of his recovery.

An adjournment was then ordered.

THE BLANDFORD BANK.—IN RE OAK AND SNOW.

At the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 14th May, a meeting was held by Mr. Commissioner Holroyd, for the examination of William Coventry Oak and Charles Hastings Snow, bankers, of Blandford, Dorsetshire.

The balance-sheet, compiled by Mr. Maynard, commences on the 20th November, 1848, and ends on the 13th of March last, showing this summary:—Dr., To creditors, viz., on current accounts, £23,857; deposit accounts, £15,330; notes in circulation, £6,590; less set off by debtors, £385; creditors in respect of guarantee, £300; liabilities on bills of exchange, viz., expected to be paid by acceptors, £10,044; ditto to be proved against the estate, £258; less balance in the hands of Messrs. Glyn and Co., holders, £708; ditto on railway contract, £60; creditors holding security, £3,517 10*s.*; capital of W. C. Oak, £3,428; profits, £11,335 6*s.* 2*d.* Cr., By bills receivable, £291; ditto past due, £2,059 12*s.* 3*d.*; debtors partly secured, £5,619 17*s.* 7*d.*; ditto unsecured, £6,365 10*s.* 6*d.*; estimated to realise £14,306 0*s.* 4*d.*; cash to official assignee, £1,145 16*s.* 2*d.*; ditto held by Messrs. Glyn and Co., in respect of guarantee, £3,000; property surrendered after deductions, £546; property held by creditors, £3,789 1*s.* 10*d.*; losses, £22,851; trade expenses, £4,508; drawings by partners—Oak, £11,631; Snow, £6,661; liabilities, per contra, £1,898.

Mr. Lawrance supported Oak, and said, the balance-sheet had been filed in time for this sitting. He congratulated the Court upon the fact that, in

consequence of the official assignee having investigated the bankrupts' affairs out of court, and requisitions having been furnished, which had been answered, and were proposed to be filed with the balance-sheet, the case would not occupy more than half an hour.

Mr. Welsh, for the assignees, said the assignees reserved to themselves the right to make observations on the bankrupts' conduct at the certificate meeting. The bankrupts had made several preferences, believed to be made voluntarily, and without pressure; if such was found to be the case the assignees would try to obtain restitution for the creditors. Their only anxiety was to do their best for the unfortunate creditors. It also appeared that the bankrupts originally commenced without any capital.

The Commissioner—Then you do not question the bankrupts' accounts.

Mr. Welsh replied in the negative. They would rather take them as representing figures than facts.

His Honour said a memorandum must be put on the balance-sheet that the bankrupts passed subject to the right of the assignees to dispute any preferences.

The bankrupts then passed their examination, and the certificate meeting was fixed for the 20th of July, at twelve o'clock.

The accountant's charges were ordered to be paid out of the estate by consent.

It was arranged that, to save trouble, Mr. Edwards, the official assignee, should prove for the holders of £5 notes, between 130 and 140 in number, affixing a list of their names, and upon receiving their dividends they should be required to deliver up the notes.

THE KETTERING BANK—IN RE GOTCH AND GOTCH.

At the Court of Bankruptcy on the 28th May, these bankrupts, who carried on business as bankers, shoe manufacturers, tanners and brewers, at Kettering and also in Long Acre, appeared before Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque, on the adjourned question of certificates, when

Mr. Lewis addressed the Court on behalf of the bankrupts. He submitted that the bankrupts were not aware of their insolvency up to the time of their failure; that there were no preferences; that the expenditure had been very moderate, and that no act of fraud was even alleged. That they had been guilty of indiscretion—gross indiscretion—in having made so large an advance to the Rev. Mr. Macpherson, he must admit. That was clear from the extraordinary correspondence to which reference had been made. He must submit, however, that the case was not one in which, as suggested by Mr. Linklater, the Court would wholly refuse the certificates. Mr. Macpherson had again and again given his word as a gentleman and a clergyman that his representations as to his prospects might be depended upon, and although he fully concurred in an observation that had fallen from the Court, that clergymen traders were not entitled to fall back upon their sacred character, yet the circumstance might tend to show that the bankrupts had been only weak and indiscreet in their transactions with that ingenious and enterprising gentleman.

On the 4th June, His Honour gave his judgment. Having referred to the circumstances under which the bankrupts had added to their business of bankers, farmers and shoe manufacturers, that of brewers, and said that the bankrupts would have acted wisely to put up with their first loss by the brewery, and not to enter upon it on their own account, he proceeded to state that the bankrupts had conducted the business originally esta-

blished by their grandfather. In 1825, it appeared, the bank suspended payment, but the creditors were paid in full, and business was at once resumed. The fact of the year 1825—a year so disastrous to bankers, but, perhaps, a year ultimately advantageous to the public—having been thus overcome, probably strengthened the bank rather than otherwise. The bankrupts shortly after that period joined their father in the business. The father died in 1852, and it would almost seem that, probably from old age, he had ceased to watch over the affairs of the bank as previously. His sons then took stock. There was owing to the bank a large amount from parties who were insolvent, and against whom no securities were held. The bankrupts said they arrived at the conclusion that they were then solvent, but it was clear to his mind that such was not the case. One of the debtors to the estate was the Rev. Mr. Macpherson, a clergyman, for £6,300. That debt was clearly worth but little. The same remark applied to debts of large amount, owing by Warden, Gotch, Gill, Thompson, and others. He was satisfied that these debts had been valued in 1852 by the bankrupts at too high a figure, and that they were insolvent. The bankrupts had been guilty of the very serious error of not writing off debts as irretrievably bad which in reality were so, but of adding interests thereupon as profits. The bankrupts said the manufacturing department was carried on with profit, but they overlooked the fact that if the bank had stopped the other branch must also have stopped, and the alleged profit would have been swept away by losses on realisation. It was not a legitimate course to leave one branch of the business to fall back upon the profits of another branch. There were periods when the manufactory was a debtor to the bank, and if the bank had stopped, the amount in its hands must have been lost. To come to the distressing part of the case. It was surprising that any rational men could have so violated their duty as bankers as these bankrupts had. He would refer first to the debt of Warden. Here was a shoemaker and farmer trusted to the amount of £21,000, without the bankrupts having so much as a shilling's worth of security. Warden relinquished the shoe business. The bankrupts allowed him to pay his other creditors without receiving anything whatever towards the liquidation of their own account. He was allowed thus to pay everybody but these bankers. (A laugh.) They relied more upon his success at his farm. He doubted whether there was a farm in England which could be so worked to a profit as to ever pay off a debt like this of £21,000. The money thus lent to Warden was the money of depositors in the bank, and not the money of the bankrupts, and the act was a robbery of the depositors. There were various other cases to refer to—that of Fish, the bankrupts appeared in his case only to have taken security. In this they received a security for £500, which they actually allowed to become void under the Statute of Limitations. The recklessness in the case of the Rev. Mr. M'Duff (a laugh)—he meant the Rev. Mr. Macpherson—was of so grossly infatuated a character that it seemed like a romance. Mr. Macpherson was a clergyman holding a living of £150 or £200 a year, and having a pension of £200 a year, as a retired chaplain of the East India Company. This clergyman was allowed prior to September, 1853, to become a debtor to the bank for £6,300. The only things upon which the bankrupts relied were some imaginary patents. (A laugh.) If one thing more than another ought to excite the vigilance of bankers, it was that their debtor was a speculator in patents. For one patent that succeeded, the number that failed was out of all proportion. It did not appear that in this case the patents had ever realised a single shilling. In 1853, owing £6,300, Macpherson went to Brussels the better to work these patents, as if a foreigner could succeed in Belgium better than a native.

One of Macpherson's ideas was to deodorise Brussels. (Laughter.) Then there were various patents, including gas and phosphate of lime patents. There were also, in course of time, mines of lead, &c. The singular volume of correspondence produced in Court—a volume to which he could apply no other term than "ludicrous" or "laughable"—showed upon what fictions and patents the bankrupts had advanced the money of their depositors. To a clergyman thus speculating and trading contrary to the canons of his order, they advanced no less a sum than £25,000, and which would prove a total loss. Macpherson on one occasion came to England for two days, but he got back again without seeing the bankrupts. This ought to have excited their suspicion. But for there being reasons for knowing that Macpherson was a real body, the Court might have been led to suppose that he was a myth. There was one of Macpherson's patents—a fish-tail burner—which he said was valued at £2,000 by a French marquis, but he (Macpherson) was going to sell it for £1,000, so anxious was he to make his bankers a remittance. By acts of gross improvidence such as this, the bankrupts had incurred losses by bad debts exceeding £60,000, and while there were now debts to the amount of £132,000, the assets given up, if fully realised, showed only 10*s.* in the pound. Having referred to the judgment of Lord Justice Knight Bruce in *Ex parte Rufford*, and to the judgment of Mr. Commissioner Holroyd in the case of *Sturt*, and expressed his concurrence in those judgments as defining the duties and obligations of bankers, his Honour proceeded to say that of all injuries done to society, that inflicted by fraudulent bankers, or bankers guilty of such gross neglect as to verge upon fraud, was the greatest. Bankers received the money of depositors, not for the purpose of embarking it in speculation. Their duty was to lend it on securities readily available, and the character of an accommodating banker was to be strictly avoided. In the cases to which he had referred, the certificates were totally refused. Was he forced to arrive at the same conclusion in this case? He had struggled against it. It might be hard to inflict a sentence of excommunication for life upon men who, having been masters, must become servants, where there were, as in this case, meritorious features. In the case of the bankrupts there was no trace of any fraudulent preference. There were no accommodation bills, no pledgings, no false representations, no misappropriations. The absence of these features caused him to stop short of a total refusal of the certificates, but he would pass a judgment as near to that as possible. Neither could he make any distinction, as suggested, between the bankrupts. It was the duty of the partner who did not immediately superintend the affairs of the bank to have exercised vigilance, and there had on his part been the most culpable negligence. Partners must not be allowed to go to sleep. In this case it was admitted that the partner who confined, as he himself alleged, his attention to the manufacturing department, constantly saw Macpherson's letters, and the manner in which he had given his evidence showed that he had no proper sense of the obligations of his position. He must be considered as a partner in the wonderful mismanagement that had caused the bank's failure, and no distinction could be made between the partners. Having regard to the favourable circumstances in the case to which he had referred, and that there was in it no trace of conduct that could be strictly termed fraudulent, although there was a degree of neglect of duties as bankers which might be considered as nearly equivalent to fraud, the bankrupts would receive third class certificates after three years' suspension, with protection.

THE GRAVESEND AND DARTFORD BANK.—IN RE JONATHAN AND ROBERT HILLS.

An adjourned examination meeting of these bankrupts, father and son, who were bankers at Dartford and Gravesend, took place before Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque on the 1st June.

Mr. Lawrance, as representing Mr. Russell, of Dartford, solicitor for the assignees, said that since the last sitting the senior partner had died, and that the accounts, as now amended, showed that the bank was in a deficiency in 1851 of £1,800, instead of having a surplus. The assignees were willing that Robert Hills should now pass.

Mr. Bagley, as representing creditors who had instituted an independent inquiry, said he was not surprised that Mr. Lawrance, as representing Mr. Russell, should suggest the course intimated, for Mr. Russell was the holder of certain valuable securities which properly belonged to the assignees.

Mr. Lawrance said Mr. Russell was a creditor for upwards of £400, and that the only securities he held were certain bills of exchange which were valueless, but upon which, whatever their value, he claimed to have a lien.

Mr. Bagley—According to the bankrupts' evidence, as given under the inquiry instituted by my clients, several of the bills of exchange referred to are the bills of persons who are thoroughly solvent. Mr. Russell prepared securities for the bankrupts, and he holds title-deeds to this day.

Mr. Lawrance—Mr. Russell holds no deeds.

Mr. Bagley—No. Mr. Gibson, solicitor, holds the deeds. Mr. Bagley proceeded to state that the accounts showed the drawings of the partners, since 1851, to have been £16,000. Robert Hills now stated that the amount should be £13,000. He had, however, furnished a statement of disbursements to the amount of £20,000, but which statement was most unsatisfactory. The bankrupts' transactions with one Henry Gibson, who was returned as a debtor to the bankrupts' estate for £16,160, had been of a most extraordinary character. Robert Hills stated that he had been accidentally introduced to Gibson about eleven years ago, by Mr. W. Nash, his (bankrupt's) father-in-law. Gibson was described as a merchant, having offices first in Railway-place, and afterwards in Gracechurch-street, his residence being somewhere in Whitechapel-road. The bankrupts had advanced the £16,000 from to time, and there were joint speculations in consignments to Australia and in mining shares on the part of Robert Hills and Gibson. The bankrupt stated that Gibson never furnished any statement of the result of these speculations further than a verbal statement that they had resulted in a profit. The bankrupt, however, admitted that he (bankrupt) had incurred losses to the amount of £6,000 on mining shares. He also admitted that he knew in 1856 of Gibson being insolvent, and he believed that Gibson on leaving the country in 1856 for America took a great deal of money with him. It was not, he said, until a trial took place at Bristol, that he became aware that Gibson was a returned convict.

Mr. Hilleary (who appeared for the bankrupt) protested against such statements being made at this stage of the inquiry. They got into the papers, and a cloud of prejudice was raised up against the certificate meeting.

Mr. Bagley—Robert Hills states that he knew Gibson was a returned convict twelve months before he left this country, and that he had business transactions with him after he knew that interesting fact, but that they were chiefly in the form of an endeavour to get out. He admitted, however, that he had never pressed Gibson for a settlement, and that he had taken no legal proceedings against him. To the last he believed Gibson to be an honest man, and a man of truth. Before the bankrupt could be

allowed to pass, the creditors ought to know something more in respect to the whereabouts and position of this Gibson, who had departed with a great deal of money.

The Commissioner—Gibson departs owing the bank £16,184?—The bankrupt—Yes.

Mr. Hilleary—Every farthing of the advance is accounted for in the books.

Mr. Bagley proceeded to state that about eighteen months before the bankruptcy the bankrupts had given some securities to the Commercial Bank of London. The Commercial Bank had discounted the bankrupts' customers' bills, and it would appear to have derived considerable profit from so doing, as it charged a discount of 1 and 2 per cent. above the bank's ordinary rate of interest. On the 16th of December, the bankrupts resolved to stop payment, unless further assistance should be given by the Commercial Bank. That assistance was refused, and the bank closed early on the 17th of December. The bankrupts had furnished a statement of cash, &c., in the bank on the 16th of December. That statement differed materially from the cash, &c., actually found when the bank closed; and no satisfactory explanation had been given of what had become of the difference. "Sundries, £1,900," the bankrupt said, meant overdue bills, and which he said had passed into the hands of the official assignee, but he corrected that statement by saying that they were in the hands of Mr. Russell. It was not undeserving of notice, that shortly before the bankruptcy the bankrupt had assigned certain securities to one Miskin, his brother-in-law, to cover an alleged debt of £1,200. The bankrupt's unsecured debts amounted to £36,961, to meet which the funds in the hands of the official assignee were the pitiful amount of £3,100, There was but little prospect of any increase in the assets, except an examination of Mr. Russell and the cashier of the bank should be instituted by his (Mr. Bagley's) clients. The latter ought to know where the money was.

Mr. Lawrance submitted that no case had been shown for an adjournment. The assets, already infinitesimally small, would altogether disappear if the estate were thus subjected to costs.

Mr. Bagley—It is surprising that the bankrupt should ever have attempted to pass on such a balance-sheet.

The bankrupt, examined by Mr. Hilleary, said, Mr. Russell had acted as his solicitor on several occasions, and the bills of exchange he now held were the bills of parties whom he had instructions to sue. They were handed to him in 1854, and were not given in any way as a preference. He did not sue Gibson for the £16,000; he was afraid to do so. It had been the uniform custom of the bank to treat over-due and doubtful bills as cash. He had given up every shilling of his property. The assets would be £4,000 to pay £36,000. Gibson had never furnished any account of their joint speculations, but he had paid into the bank from time to time certain sums, which he said were profits. He relied upan that representation. The bank had taken credit for doubtful bills to the amount of £12,000 as so much cash. This, he must repeat, was the uniform custom. Interest had been charged upon Gibson's account after he knew that he had absconded.

Mr. Bagley—The effect of thus treating bad bills and bad debts as so much cash has been this:—The official assignee, on taking possession of what he supposed was cash to the amount of £12,946, found that he had actually got only £85 19*s.* 4*d.* (Laughter.)

The Commissioner—We live and learn. We certainly do see such strange things that we could believe anything.

It appeared from the further examination of the bankrupt that Gibson's

debt had been treated as if it were cash, but he thought that after 1855, in the quarterly balance-sheets of the bank, it was treated as a bad or doubtful debt. These quarterly balance-sheets were not taken with a view to ascertain if the bank was solvent.

The Commissioner—Were you aware of Gibson having been a bankrupt in February, 1855? The bankrupt—Yes. Did you prove your debt against his estate?—No. Why not?—I was ashamed of the debt; I was afraid to prove it.

Mr. Bagley—But you continued to charge interest upon the debt after that period, and that interest is classed by the bank as a portion of its profits? (A laugh.) The bankrupt—That is so.

In further examination, the bankrupt said Gibson had told him that part of the speculations was in the form of shipments to Mr. Simmons, in Australia. There were some consignments also to Mr. William Nash, his (bankrupt's) brother-in-law, who was still living in America. He (bankrupt) was to share in the profits, but he never asked for an account. He had been informed that Mr. Russell had furnished a statement of his claim, and what he held. The latter included four bills of Mr. Winter. Those bills he considered would belong to his estate. Their value was about £400, and about the amount of Mr. Russell's claim. Mr. Russell is solicitor to Mr. Allen, one of the trade assignees.

Mr. Bagley asked for an adjournment.

The Commissioner—I do not see in what way any further adjournment can increase the assets, except by getting the bills out of the hands of Russell. I will, however, accede to an adjournment if desired. A bank which conducts its affairs in this loose way and has such irregular transactions is not entitled to complain of any extent of inconvenience.

Mr. Bagley—My clients have incurred costs enough already. They decline to incur the chance of being subjected to further costs when they can derive so little benefit from the estate.

Mr. Lawrance—It shall not be said that the assignees have not done their duty. I will undertake to institute further inquiry at the expense of the estate.

An adjournment was ordered accordingly.

THE WARE AND HERTFORD BANK—IN RE SAMUEL ADAMS.

At the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 18th June, Mr. Commissioner Fane gave judgment on the question of certificate, in the case of Samuel Adams, who carried on business as a banker, at Ware and Hertford.

His Honour said—The bankrupt, Adams, asks for his certificate. The case is one in which compassion for weakness of character almost disables one from administering justice with the firmness which public duty demands. The bankrupt was admitted in 1845 as partner in the business of a banker carried on by his uncle, Samuel Adams, at Ware and Hertford. The uncle died in 1850, and the bankrupt succeeded to the banking business and to some landed property. The uncle had also been a maltster, and to that business also the bankrupt succeeded. The bankrupt seems also to have farmed his own land on rather a large scale. In 1853 or 1854 he had the misfortune to become acquainted with an adventurer named Johnston, who had availed himself of the folly and extravagance of a young man of fortune to obtain from him acceptances to the amount of about £30,000. Johnston opened an account with Adams, and somehow or other prevailed on him to discount the acceptances given to him by the

young man. When the acceptances became due and were presented the bankrupt was met not by payment, but by a Chancery suit, commenced by the acceptor against Johnston and himself, for the purpose of having the acceptances delivered up as having been obtained by fraud. Such a suit, if successful, would, of course, entail two serious losses, the loss of £30,000 and the costs of a Chancery suit. If at this time the bankrupt had possessed that strength of mind which enables men of firmness to look their affairs steadfastly in the face, he could not have failed to see that, having regard to the complications incident to carrying on a banking business in two places, a malting business, and a farming business, and having regard to the proceedings against him in Chancery,—proceedings which involved disgraceful imputations of fraud and discreditable connection with a disreputable man—and, considering the then state of his assets, the time was come for meeting the difficulties of his position in the only way in which such complicated difficulties can be met—that is, by calling his creditors together, explaining his position, and placing himself in their hands. The time when he should have done this was evidently in 1854, when the Chancery suit had been commenced, and when he must have known that this, added to his other difficulties, must sooner or later involve his destruction as a banker. He did not adopt this obvious and prudent course, but, on the contrary, defended the Chancery suit, which he must have done merely to gain time, and he availed himself at the time so named to make a post-nuptial settlement upon his wife of an estate which he was anxious to rescue from his creditors, because, as he had said, it had belonged to his uncle, the late Mr. Adams, and was the estate which had been longest in his family. He succeeded in postponing the day of bankruptcy till the 24th of July, 1856, but on the 25th he signed the usual document, whereby, after submitting to his bankruptcy, declared the day before, he pledged himself, in compliance with the common printed form, "to make a full and true disclosure of all that had been done with his property." Even then —though he ought, no doubt, to have met his creditors before and taken their advice—it was not too late for him, by fulfilling the pledge then given, to keep himself right with this Court. Unfortunately, however, even then he had not sufficient strength of character to pursue an honest course. He still clung to the desire of rescuing the property he had attempted to settle on his wife (which was, in fact, settling it on himself), and when proceedings were taken in Chancery to set aside the settlement, he sanctioned a foolish defence, which, while useless to himself and wife, was expensive to his creditors. This, however, is, I regret to say, not the worst feature in his case. The worst is to come. While his accounts were being prepared for this Court by his accountant, he found that he could not account for all the property traced into his possession without taking credit for £5,487 18*s.* for domestic and personal expenses during the year and seven months preceding his bankruptcy. His accountant called his attention to the monstrousness of this item, upon which he directed him to reduce the personal expenditure from £5,487 18*s.* to £3,167 18*s.* — certainly a more plausible amount—and add such a sum to an alleged debt due to him from Johnston as made Johnston appear debtor to him £6,830 16*s.* 11*d.* It so happened that Johnston had been bankrupt also, and his bankruptcy had come before this Court; and when, therefore, the strange statement was made that Johnston was debtor to Adams in this enormous sum, Johnston's accounts were looked into, and Johnston was himself examined, after which the bankrupt was again examined before me. His Honour then read from the examinations of the bankrupt and Captain Robert Johnston. It appeared that Johnston had deposed, that

"he had known Adams since 1850, and that he had had transactions with him since 1852 to 1854. He kept an account at Adams's bank, and Adams discounted Mr. Kaye's bills for him. He did not receive from him on the 2nd of March, 1855, or on his account, a sum of £500, and he knew nothing whatever about such sum. On the 2nd of August, 1855, he did not receive, either directly or indirectly, from Adams, a sum of £1,000, or any part of such sum; neither did he receive on the 10th of June, 1855, £1,000, or any sum whatsoever. On the 24th of August, 1855, he (Johnston) was in prison. Adams did not on that day advance him £500, or any sum of money; neither did Adams on the 12th of January, 1856, advance him £500. Of five sums, to the aggregate amount of £3,500, with which Adams had debited him, he (Johnston) had not received any amount whatever. He was perfectly sure of that. The first time he (Johnston) heard of this further charge of £3,500 was when he was comparing his amended balance-sheet with Mr. Glover, his accountant, when he repudiated it at once. Adams had called yesterday upon him at his lodgings, 74, Sloane-street, to see if he (Johnston) could render him any assistance in the matter. Adams had previously admitted that he (Johnston) had not had the money, and begged him to extricate him from the trouble he had got into in any way he could. He (Johnston) declined to be mixed up in the matter, or to have anything to do with it. Adams asked him to extricate him, but he did not directly ask him to take upon himself this debit of £3,500. He insinuated that he should advise him (Adams) how to act—his conduct was more suggestive than asking him to do any particular act. Adams admitted that he (Johnston) had not received any part of the £3,500, and he asked him to assist him out of the difficulty. Adams, on being examined, admitted that Johnston had no part of the £3,500, his excuse for the false statement being that he did not wish it to appear that his personal and other expenditure had been so large. Now, continued the learned commissioner, it is difficult to conceive a more lamentable exhibition of weakness, even if there be nothing worse, than this examination discloses. Many of the creditors think the worst of the bankrupt, and think that he has property somewhere in concealment. I hope it is not so. One thing, however, is clear, that even after his bankruptcy, knowing it to be false that Johnston owed him several thousand pounds more than he did, under these circumstances, it is impossible for the Court to do otherwise than perform its painful duty of wholly refusing the certificate; the more painful because, had the bankrupt met his position fairly, he would at least have been entitled to a second-class certificate, for his assets, after paying all the expenses, have already paid 6*s.* in the pound on £103,000. By cap. 256 of the Bankrupt Law Consolidation Act, 1849, it is enacted, "That if at any sitting for the allowance of the bankrupt's certificate it shall appear that he has committed any of the offences therein enumerated, the Court shall refuse to grant the certificate, or suspend the same, and shall refuse to grant the bankrupt any further protection." Among the offences enumerated is this:—"If the bankrupt shall, under his bankruptcy, attempt to account for any of his property by fictitious losses or expenses;" his alleged loss by Johnston's non-payment of his alleged debt of £6,830 is clearly a fictitious loss, and I therefore consider myself bound, in compliance with the law, to refuse the bankrupt any further protection. I observe by the Bankruptcy Reports that the Court of Appeal in Bankruptcy frequently reverses the judgment of the Commissioner in reference to the grant of protection, not because the Commissioner's judgment was wrong, but because the assignees chosen by the creditors, when appealed to by the Court above, give their consent that the Commissioner's judgment should

be reversed or qualified, and protection is granted. I see that a new bankruptcy bill is in contemplation. I hope it will be part of that bill to transfer the jurisdiction as to granting or withholding protection from the Commissioner to the assignees, for surely it is not proper to order the Commissioner by act of Parliament to withhold protection in certain cases, and when he has done it in compliance with the law, set aside his act, because the assignees are willing that protection shall be granted.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—IN RE HUMPHREY BROWN.

An adjourned examination meeting in the case of Humphrey Brown, described as a merchant and shipowner, of Little Smith Street, Westminster, but who is better known from his unfortunate connexion with the Royal British Bank, took place before Mr. Commissioner Evans on the 3rd June, when the following balance-sheet, which extends from the 1st January, 1853, to the 30th July, 1857, the date of the adjudication:—

Dr.

To creditors unsecured					£2,567	5	3	
On bank shares					1,000	0	0	
								£3,567 5 3
To creditors holding security, viz., Royal British Bank claim made by assignees, disputed, and under arbitration ...					63,673	5	0	
Less amount short credited on sale of "Ambrosine"					720	0	0	
					62,953	5	0	
This claim is made up as follows, viz., amount of Walton's liability, transferred to me under deed of March 15th, 1855			£36,021	4	8			
Amount paid by bank, and charged to me for insurance of ships, interest, discount, &c.			16,680	0	5			
Amount of cash commission, &c., on Humphrey Brown's account, apart from ships .			10,251	19	11			
			£62,953	5	0			
Other creditors...					30,514	15	7	
								93,468 0 7
Creditor to be paid in full								4 0 0
Profits								44,862 2 3
Rents received—								
On real property					5,222	11	1	
On boats					493	8	8	
								5,715 14 9
Capital on the 1st January, 1853								19,478 10 1
Liabilities								6,975 4 0
								£174,070 16 11

Cr.

By debtors good	£1,234 1 3		
Debtors doubtful	2,612 11 8		
		£3,846	12 11
Debtors bad (carried to losses) ...	2,709 8 0		
Wm. Turquand	... ...	656	0 0
For amount placed in his hands as sole arbitrator, pursuant to the terms of a certain agreement of reference, dated February 2, 1857, under which agreement of reference all the accounts between myself and the Royal British Bank were referred, and this sum was to be received in discharge of my liability to the bank, in case the award should be given against me, and the arbitrator finding upon going into my affairs that I was unable to pay a large sum.			
By property held by creditors		86,950	15 8
Trade expenses as per list		5,219	14 0
Interest and discount		18,468	9 5
Law costs		2,975	19 8
Losses as per sheet	£25,100 10 10		
„ on bad debts as above...	2,709 8 0		
„ on insurance of ships per Royal British Bank...	7,421 13 3		
		35,231	12 1
„ by consignments		7,780	5 2
House and personal expenses as per sheet		15,953	3 0
Difference on books		13	1 0
Liabilities		6,975	4 0
		£174,070	16 11

Mr. Linklater, for the assignees, said the bankrupt's accounts showed a large amount of debts, and a very small amount of property indeed. There was an alleged loss of large amount on realisation of property. The bankrupt having taken from the 31st of July last to prepare accounts, it was but reasonable that an adjournment for some months should be allowed in which to investigate them. Further accounts would clearly be required by the assignees.

It was suggested by Mr. Tucker on behalf of the bankrupt, that the adjournment should not be for any protracted period, as efforts were being made to obtain the bankrupt's release from prison on the sentence passed by Lord Campbell.

The bankrupt said, Mr. Linklater had done him an injustice in representing his debts to be £174,000.

The Commissioner—Nothing of the kind. He represents the figures in the accounts to amount to £174,000, and not £174,000 as being the amount of the debts.

An adjournment was then ordered to the 4th of November.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

THE NATIONAL BANK.

THE twenty-third annual general meeting of the proprietors in this bank was held on the 25th May, at the offices in Broad-street, City, Fowler Newsam, Esq., in the chair, when the secretary read the following report:—

The directors of the National Bank have again much pleasure in meeting the proprietors, and in presenting to them this their twenty-third annual report, inasmuch as the statements they have to make afford gratifying evidence of the usefulness of the bank in the districts of Ireland with which it is more immediately connected, and also show conclusively the steadily advancing prosperity of the whole establishment. The year 1857 has been rendered remarkable by extreme vicissitudes in the trade and commerce of almost every part of the world, attributable in a great degree to wild speculation and improvident engagements, the effect of which eventually produced a commercial crisis of the most momentous character. The natural effects of this convulsion in monetary affairs upon banking business were to occasion violent fluctuations in the rate of interest, and to render necessary increased vigilance on the part of bankers, upon whom it became incumbent, in the first instance, to secure the safety of their own position by providing themselves with resources so ample and of such a character that they could, in any event, be made immediately available; and in the next place, to impose on bankers the observance of unusual circumspection in the endeavour they had to make to mitigate the effect of the panic by affording to their own customers all such reasonable and legitimate accommodation as they might require. It is most gratifying to the directors to be able to state that the National Bank suffered no loss from the calamities which were occuring far and near; and that, owing to this and other fortunate circumstances, its losses by bad debts, notwithstanding the extent and severity of the crisis, were last year in reality less than the average. The London connections of the bank keep gradually extending, and the opening of banking business here proves, as the directors hoped it would do, a useful and valuable acquisition to its business in Ireland. It would be unreasonable to suppose that the commercial disasters which have successively visited America, Scotland, England, and the Continent with such severity, could occur without producing some effect in Ireland; but, fortunately, in that country the consequences of the events elsewhere scarcely excited more than a slight sympathetic feeling, for in Ireland trade was sound, the produce of the harvest had been good, prices had been fairly remunerative, and the year then closing formed another in the series of prosperous seasons with which Providence has blessed that country. Thus, although there appeared in some districts, as was not unnatural, an uneasiness amongst depositors with the banks, and in consequence a smart demand for gold by both depositors and holders of notes sprung up, yet that demand being most promptly met, all fear speedily subsided, and confidence in the stability of those institutions has not been shaken. Indeed, at the very height of the panic, the Irish banks possessed collectively a reserve of £2,000,000 more gold than by law they were required to keep to meet their circulation, and scarcely a failure of magnitude took place among any class of traders during the whole commercial crisis; thus affording the clearest proof of a fact highly

satisfactory and creditable to Ireland, namely, that in that country at least there had been neither improvident banking nor reckless over-trading. The proprietors will observe from the following statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year, that, although the circulation and deposits had, in common with those of every other bank, been much contracted in amount, when compared with the same period in 1856, and, notwithstanding that the directors had deemed it right, in such extraordinary times, to keep an unusual amount of cash in hand, the bank was enabled to afford facilities to its customers in discounts even to a much greater extent than at the period alluded to, whereby credit was sustained, and the great fall in the prices of produce which had begun to be severely felt in every fair and market throughout the country was, doubtless, very sensibly diminished.

At the close of 1857, the statements of assets and liabilities, and profits and loss, were as follows, viz.:—

ASSETS.

Gold and silver coin in Ireland	£514,743	0	5
Cash on hand at the Bank of England and on call ...	364,554	6	7
Government funds, Exchequer bills, Exchequer bonds, and debentures	446,171	3	9
Bills discounted on hand	2,568,758	1	3
Advances on current account on Government and other securities, and loans at short notice	383,857	15	11
Bank premises	30,319	17	6
	£4,308,404	5	5

LIABILITIES.

Paid-up capital	£500,000	0	0
Notes in circulation	863,001	10	0
Due by the bank on deposit receipts, current accounts, &c.	2,840,610	12	9
Balance of reserve fund	104,792	2	8
	£4,308,404	5	5

Profit and Loss Account.

By undivided profits at December, 1856				£100,433	10	0
Profit arising from amalgamation with Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir local banks				8,124	4	5
Profit on sale of National Bank shares				11,976	14	11
Net profit for the year 1857, after writing off all bad debts, and providing for doubtful ones	£88,557	13	4			
Less rebate of interest on bills not due carried to profit and loss new account	12,300	0	0			
				76,257	13	4
				£196,792	2	8

To shareholders' dividends to June, 1857	£15,000	0	0
Ditto ditto December, 1857	15,000	0	0
Bonus to December, 1857	10,000	0	0
Amount appropriated to officers' guarantee fund ...	2,000	0	0
Bonus of £2 10*s.* per share on 20,000 shares added to capital	50,000	0	0
Balance, December, 1857	104,792	2	8
	£196,792	2	8

These accounts examined and found correct,

OCTAVIUS OMMANNEY, F. B. HENSHAW,
ROWAND RONALD, J. BOGLE SMITH.

From this account the proprietors will observe, that the directors have availed themselves of the opportunity properly afforded by the unusual high rates of interest prevailing last year, and the consequently increased but exceptional profits, to introduce for the first time a charge for rebate of interest, amounting to £12,300, being discount on bills discounted previous to the 31st December, but which did not reach maturity until the following year, such being undoubtedly a receipt properly belonging to the current rather than to the past year. The directors also found themselves justified in declaring at Christmas last, out of the profits of the year, besides the usual dividend of 6 per cent. per annum, a bonus of 10*s.* per share, and nevertheless they have had the pleasure of finding realised the expectations which they held out to the proprietors at the last meeting, to the effect that the reserve fund would at the end of 1857 exceed the amount at which it stood at the previous balance, it having now reached £104,792 2*s.* 8*d.*, notwithstanding that nearly £30,000 was in May last appropriated towards augmenting the paid-up capital of the bank to £500,000. In future the directors propose to declare the dividends, and also such bonuses as the profits of the bank may permit, in the months of February and August, instead of July and January as at present. Under the present system sufficient time is not allowed for auditing the accounts, made up half-yearly on the 30th of June and the 31st of December; these accounts forming the data according to which the distribution of the profits among the proprietors is made. The directors have the pleasure to state that all the remaining shares which from casual circumstances had come into the possession of the bank, and which last year were mentioned as being still undisposed of, have since been sold in the market and have realised a profit of £5,972, which sum is placed to the credit of the profit and loss account of the present year. The officers' guarantee fund, established in December, 1856, is making satisfactory progress. From its commencement up to the present time there has not been a single claim made upon it, a circumstance highly creditable to the whole establishment; and the directors, therefore, the more confidently indulge the hope previously expressed, that this fund, so auspiciously inaugurated, will at no very distant period prove a fruitful source from which the proposed superannuation fund for the decayed officers of the bank or their families may be established with the best prospect of success. The directors regret to state that, some time back, owing to continued ill-health, their friend and late colleague, Joseph Malcomson, Esq., had felt himself compelled to resign his seat at the board. The vacancy thereby occasioned was filled up by the directors, in virtue of the powers granted them under the deed of settlement, by the unanimous election of Brodie M'Ghie Wilcox, Esq., M.P., and chairman of the Penin-

sular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, and which appointment the directors feel sure will now meet the unqualified confirmation of the proprietors. The directors who this year retire by rotation are, Sir Ralph Howard, Bart., Brodie M'Ghie Wilcox, Esq., M.P., J. C. Ruding, Esq., B. H. Hartley, Esq., who being eligible now offer themselves as candidates for re-election.

The Chairman said he had much pleasure in moving the adoption of this report, because he hoped the shareholders would consider it gave evidence of the exercise of much care and judgment on the part of those who had had the management of their interests during an anxious and very trying period. (Applause.) But the difficulties which they had had to contend with only increased the gratification which the directors felt at the satisfactory report of last year's operations, the result being briefly this—that from the profits which they had realised from various sources the directors had been enabled in the course of the year, not only to pay the usual dividend of 6 per cent. per annum, with a bonus of 10*s.* per share, but to add a bonus of £2 10*s.* per share to the capital of the bank, the total distribution among the proprietors being £90,000, or 17½ per cent. on the paid-up capital of £500,000. The proprietors, nevertheless, must look at the last year to some extent as an exceptional case, inasmuch as they had derived profits from the sale of bank shares, and from the amalgamation which had been effected with the Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir local banks, making together a sum of £20,100, which were purely extraordinary, and which could not occur again, and it might be a long time before money would again command such a high rate of interest as it had done during the greater part of last year. As the proprietors would observe by the report, the directors had availed themselves of the opportunity afforded them by the unusual high rates of interest prevailing last year to make a deduction, for the first time, in the shape of a charge for rebate of interest or discount on bills discounted prior to the 31st of December, and having various periods to run; and to effect a still further improvement, it was proposed to delay the declaration of the dividend in future for a short period, in order to allow time for auditing the accounts made up half-yearly, on the 30th of June and the 31st of December, which the present plan did not admit of. The directors felt sure that every man of business would consider this change highly expedient, especially as such an arrangement would not make a difference to the proprietors beyond retarding for about a month after the usual period the payment of the dividend. The directors proposed that the dividends should be payable in the months of February and August, and from the working of the bank from Christmas last to the present period they had every reason to hope they would be enabled to add 10*s.* per share bonus, as they had done at Christmas last. The account of profit and loss showed that, notwithstanding the reduction of rebate of interest of £12,300 from the profits of last year, their profits amounted to £76,257, and that the reserved fund stood at £104,792. Now, as respected the reserve fund, he thought it right that the proprietors should be parties to the views of the directors. (Hear.) The question resolved itself into this, what was the primary object of the reserve fund, and what should be its amount? On the first point he believed they were all agreed that, in the event of an adverse year, the reserve fund should be the source from which the dividend should be paid. As to what was the proper amount for the reserve fund there might be great diversity of opinion. For his own part, he should say he should be glad to see it reach £150,000, or even more; but as it had already attained a large amount, and which was quite commensurate according to the business done with that of any of

the leading joint-stock banks, it might not, perhaps, be necessary to add to it from year to year to the same extent, though it might be right to increase it by fractional parts, to be regulated by what the amount of the profits of the bank showed after payment of the dividend, and any bonus which the profits admitted. The proprietors, he was sure, would remark with gratification that after passing through a panic which in its extent was perhaps without parallel, the bank still possessed £514,073 in bullion, and that the directors had £1,000,000 more in cash, government securities or funds, or calls at short notices, at their disposal; and though the fact was evident that innovations had crept in in the usual practice of business, and that the spirit of wild enterprise or speculation was carried beyond the usual limit of commercial enterprise, the directors had thought it right on the first tidings from America of the commercial convulsion which had occurred there to restrict the extension of the circulation of the bank at that period, to check improvident investments on the part of their connections, and to keep their own resources available. The result was, that when the alarm and distrust arose—when each succeeding packet brought them intelligence of one bank after the other suspending payment—they being also connected with firms in England and Scotland—the directors of this bank were so well prepared for any emergency, and so strong was their position, that while on the one hand they were paying out bullion, they were able to assist those who required assistance (hear). During the whole of the panic they had never refused to discount a bill which had upon it the appearance of respectability or of a good commercial character. He had had frequently, on occasions like these, the pleasure to express his sincere satisfaction at the rapid progress which Ireland had made in a social point of view, and in the acquisition of wealth; and it was on the present occasion no small circumstance to be able to congratulate the proprietors that she should have passed unscathed through a commercial crisis which had in so many places caused such infinite ruin and distress. At present there seemed to be no single drawback on her prosperity. A peaceable disposition prevailed throughout the country; a friendly feeling existed between landlords and tenants; and the railways which now intersected the country admitted of the interchange of goods, giving facilities to the farmer for effecting sales and making his purchases, and a cheap mode of transit for himself, enabling him to bring with him on his return home a knowledge of new inventions, agricultural or otherwise. And with all this social and commercial prosperity in Ireland, who could doubt the increased success of the National Bank? (Hear.) In the death of Mr. Joseph Malcomson, Ireland had among its commercial men lost one of her greatest benefactors, and the National Bank had to lament the loss of a warm friend and till recently one of its directors. To supply his place the directors, in virtue of the powers vested in them, had elected a gentleman who was so well known in Ireland as well as in England, so celebrated for his successful management of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Packet Company (cheers), that he was sure this election of the board would meet with the hearty assent of the proprietors. He begged to move that the report be received, adopted, and circulated amongst the proprietors (cheers).

Mr. Jas. Titmarsh had great pleasure in seconding the motion. He believed that the best guarantee the bank could give to the public was having a good substantial reserve fund. That was the security for the investments of the shareholders. He would rather see a good substantial reserve fund made than the payment of large dividends.

After some conversation the report was received, adopted, and ordered to be circulated.

Captain Porter proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors in the most complimentary terms.

Mr. Lawrence seconded the resolution, but said he was almost disposed to move an amendment to a mere ordinary, cold vote of thanks. The proprietors could not but feel that it was owing to the zeal, prudence, and attention of the directors that the great success of this bank was to be attributed. He would propose as a rider that the directors be requested to accept a present of £1,000. The hon. gentleman concluded with a resolution to that effect, Captain Porter withdrawing his own resolution and seconding this.

The proposition was put, and was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman, on behalf of himself and his colleagues, begged to return his sincere thanks. It was a matter which neither he nor any of his colleagues would have mentioned, especially upon a public occasion, but it was now open to him to say thus much. When the bank was in a position widely different from that which it held now, the board voluntarily reduced their salary. (Hear, hear.) According to the deed of settlement they were entitled to receive £4,800 annually, but up to this time they had never received that amount; the extreme amount they had received was £3,600, or £1,200 less than the deed allowed them. (Applause.) But, seeing that the bank was now in a high position, the directors thought it was only right and due to themselves that they should henceforward take the whole sum allowed by the deed. They regarded this grant of £1,000 as a recognition of the care and anxiety they had gone through; but they held it in higher estimation, because it was a proof that the proprietors valued their exertions.

A vote of thanks to the officers of the bank, which was acknowledged by the secretary, closed the proceedings.

THE IONIAN BANK.

The sixteenth annual meeting of the proprietors of the Ionian Bank was held on the 27th May, at the offices, Mr. Farrer occupied the chair. The following report was presented on behalf of the directors:—

The directors have great satisfaction in being able again to address the proprietors in language of congratulation. The favourable anticipation, which they ventured, with some qualifications, to hold out in their last report have been fully realised, and they can now look forward with reasonable confidence to a period of prosperous activity. The destructive blight which for some years past has exercised so disastrous an influence, if not altogether subdued, has been at least materially checked, and with the help of those preventive and remedial measures, of which experience has demonstrated the efficacy, there is ground for hope that it will shortly disappear. The crop of the year 1856 was of average quantity, and more than average quality; and as the supply came upon an exhausted market, the proprietors and cultivators were able to obtain for their fruit amply remunerative prices. The effect of this has, of course, been felt in other branches of trade and industry, and the bank has not failed to participate in the improvement, to which indeed it has in no inconsiderable degree contributed. It is not too much to say, that the steady action of the bank during the critical period now happily past, the union of liberality, forbearance, and prudent reserve which it exhibited, greatly mitigated the severity of the consequent pressure, and must have still further strength-

ened the confidence of the Ionian people in its stability and usefulness. The evidences, indeed, of this confidence are not wanting. In the circulation, deposits, and discounts, there has been a sensible increase; and inasmuch as there remains for the future nothing more than the ordinary contingencies incidental to banking operations, and as the judicious husbandry of the resources of the bank enables it to take advantage of the more active and profitable demand which has lately sprung up, the directors anticipate a progressive augmentation of profit. Times of prosperous reaction, however, are not without their perils, and the directors will not fail to impress on their managers a continuance of that vigilant caution which, indeed, their own matured experience would spontaneously suggest. They subjoin the usual abstract of the results of the year 1856, which, as showing an addition to the rest of £2,177 10*s.* 6*d.*, they trust will be received as satisfactory.

The balance to the credit of profit and loss, on the 1st of January 1856, was	£7,313	18	10
The net profits of the year, after deduction of charges, and an allowance for bad debts, is	9,677	10	6
Together	£16,901	9	4
From which is to be deducted the amount of two half-yearly dividends, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum	£7,500	0	0
Leaving to the credit of profit and loss, on the 1st of January, 1857	£9,491	9	4

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, stated that the result of this year's operations compared favourably (so far as the amount of profit realised) with that of the previous twelvemonth,

The report was adopted, and the usual vote of thanks to the directors unanimously passed.

LONDON CHARTERED BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of this company was held on the 4th June, at the London Tavern, Duncan Dunbar, Esq., chairman of the board of directors, in the chair.

Mr. G. P. Hadow, a director, at the request of the chairman, read the following report and statement of accounts:—

"In conformity with the deed of settlement and charter of the company, the directors now submit to the proprietors their sixth annual report, together with the accounts, duly audited, showing the state of the bank's affairs up to the 31st of December, 1857. Notwithstanding the recent commercial crisis, it is gratifying to the directors to be able to inform the shareholders that the bank's operations during the past year have been more successful than might have been anticipated. This result is mainly attributable to the vigilance of the inspector, aided by the local directors and managers, to whose exertions for the protection of the interests of the corporation, during the late eventful period of monetary difficulties, your directors gladly avail themselves of this opportunity to bear testimony. The latest advances from the colonies extend to the 16th March from Melbourne, and to the 11th from Sydney. The letters received from the inspector are encouraging, and represent the position and progress of the

various branches as satisfactory. Since the date of the last report a new branch has been opened at Ararat, at present one of the most productive gold fields in Victoria. With reference to this subject, it may be satisfactory to state that the yield of gold continues considerable, the export from the colony of Victoria alone having amounted during the past year to 2,757,047 ounces of the value of upwards of £11,000,000 sterling. The premises now occupied by the bank at Melbourne being held on lease expiring at an early date, the freehold of an eligible site in that city has been secured on moderate terms, and tenders were to be invited for the erection of a building suitable to the business of the corporation. A site for the erection of bank premises at Geelong has also been purchased. The accounts now placed before the shareholders are made up to the 31st December last. After the usual deductions, and also after making allowance for bad and doubtful debts, there remains to the credit of profit and loss the sum of £33,673 12*s.* 3*d.*, from which the directors recommend a dividend for the half-year of 3 per cent., free of income tax, making, with the dividend of like amount paid last half-year, a total dividend of 6 per cent. for the year ending 31st December, 1857, £21,000, leaving a balance of undivided profits of £12,673 12*s.* 3*d.* The directors and auditors now go out of office, but being eligible for re-election, offer themselves accordingly.

Balance-sheet, 31st December, 1857.

LIABILITIES.

Notes in circulation...	£236,379	0	0
Bills payable and other liabilities	345,593	18	1
Deposits	498,202	2	6
Total due to the public	£1,080,175	0	7
Capital paid up	700,000	0	0
Profit and loss	33,673	12	3
	£1,813,848	12	10

ASSETS.

Coin and bullion, and balances due by other banks ...	£590,687	14	10
Bills receivable and other securities	1,174,113	3	5
Freehold, leasehold, and other property of the corporation	43,902	11	6
Open policies	2,329	3	0
Stamps	397	5	7
Preliminary expenses	2,518	14	6
	£1,813,848	12	10

Profit and Loss Account.

To dividends paid	£37,875	0	0
Proportion of preliminary expenses	1,162	8	0
Balance carried down...	33,673	12	3
	£72,711	0	11

By balance at Dec. 31, 1856, per last statement ...	£22,977	6	1
Balance of profits in London and colonies for year ending Dec. 31, 1857, after deducting current expenses and making provision for bad and doubtful debts	49,733	14	10
	£72,711	0	11

The Chairman presumed that the meeting would take the figures put forth in the statement of accounts as received, and he would at once proceed to make a few remarks, in moving that the report be received and adopted with the statement of accounts, that the same be printed and circulated amongst the proprietary. It would be in the recollection of those who attended the last meeting that he spoke of the profits of 1856, and had told them that the profits for that year amounted to £82,000; in the same year the expenditure was £30,982. Gentlemen would also recollect that he told them that there was no chance of the board being able to reduce the expenses. In 1857 the profits were within £100 of £95,000, being an increase of profits of £12,900. The expenditure in 1857 was £31,750, that item having been increased by £768 by new branches opened, and the appointment of an additional manager to look after the interests of the shareholders. In 1856 the dividend of 5 per cent. was paid throughout the whole of the year, and this amounted to the sum of £31,250. In the year 1857 they had received a dividend of 6 per cent., or a distribution upon £42,000, or an additional sum of £10,780 more than in 1856. As to the expenses being reduced, that subject had attracted the earnest attention of the directors. Of course this company had not escaped altogether from bad debts, but under the circumstances of the times, looking to the extraordinary commercial pressure, this bank had really been most fortunate. In the year 1857 the estimated bad and doubtful debts were £9,600, which he could not but regard as a very small sum, looking to the very large transactions in which they were engaged. Their manager informed them that he had looked over every account, and he added that there was not the least reason for supposing that the outstanding bills at discount would not be honourably met. (Cheers.) A sum of £6,000 for expenses, and for bad debts £9,600, making together £15,600, had been swept off during the past year. The bank showed an increase during the last year; the depositors numbered 2,575, being an increase of 455 over the previous year. The balance of £12,600 was, he believed, the only vexed question, because some persons present might think that that sum ought to be divided. (Cries of "no, no.") In the year 1856, after paying a dividend of 5 per cent., they had £6,100 in hand; in 1847, under the same circumstances, they had £12,600 remaining after the payment of the dividend. This, he trusted, was the only point on which there would be likely to be a difference of opinion! Some persons might think they ought to divide more (cries of "no, no"). He again stated that in 1856, after paying a dividend of 5 per cent. they had £6,100 in hand; in 1857, after declaring a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, they had a balance of £12,600, which he thought should be carried forward as undivided profits, which meant really a reserved fund taken from the profits to form a nest egg. In the event of adverse circumstances arising, this balance might be trenched upon for the purpose of always securing at least an uniformity of dividend. With reference to deposit accounts, he was sorry to say they had been

compelled to follow out the examples of other banks, and to obtain interest. In conclusion, the hon. gentleman moved that the report and statement of accounts be received, adopted, printed, and circulated amongst the proprietary.

Mr. M'Dougall seconded the motion.

Mr. Haynes did not see the necessity of keeping up a large reserved fund.

Mr. Minter moved as an amendment that the dividend be increased by 1 per cent., making it 4 per cent.; and the motion having been seconded,

Mr. Foster, one of the directors at Melbourne, rose for the purpose of removing an impression that the capital of the company was too large; when, indeed, the report of the last meeting reached the colony, the shareholders in the colony were dismayed at the very suggestion. He hoped that no such idea would be entertained.

The amendment of Mr. Minter, on an appeal being made to him, was immediately withdrawn, the chairman suggesting that on all former occasions they had been unanimous.

The motion was then put for the adoption of the report, and was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and auditors were severally re-elected, and the dividend was ordered to be payable on and after 1st July, instead of the 15th, as originally proposed.

A cordial vote of thanks was carried to the chairman and directors, the chairman stating that, however anxious the directors here might be, the success of the bank was chiefly owing to the discretion, the judgment, and integrity of those who were 14,000 miles away from them.

The Chairman then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. John Bramwell, their inspector, and to the local managers, which was carried with acclamation, and the meeting separated.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The 22nd yearly ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in this company was held on the 8th June, at the office, No. 7, St. Helen's Place, Bishopsgate Street, Mr. Alexander Gillespie in the chair. The secretary read the following report:—

"The court of directors cannot report on the affairs of the bank for the year ending 31st December last, without adverting not only to the general character of the trade of the provinces of British North America, but also to the effects produced there by the all but unprecedented convulsions felt throughout nearly the entire commercial world during the period. In the earlier part of the year a general state of dullness and contraction of trade prevailed in these provinces, which was noticed in the report presented at the last annual meeting. This appeared no unnatural reaction from the activity and prosperity which had resulted from large railway expenditure, and from the high prices for colonial produce which existed for some previous years. A somewhat diminished Canadian harvest, however, concurring with favourable harvests in Europe, and a considerable depression in the timber trade, increased this dullness; and, under these circumstances, the monetary crisis, which commenced in the United States and rapidly spread to Europe, found these provinces the less prepared to meet its pressure. Failures have taken place and losses have been sustained by the bank, but not to the extent which was at first apprehended. Trade, however, has been still more severely contracted, and the business at all the banks materially curtailed. But it is only due to the mercantile public to state that

under these adverse circumstances they have made the most laudable exertions to discharge their obligations; and it is not a little to the honour of our banks in the North American provinces that they have maintained their specie payments at a period when a contrary course was generally adopted by the banks in the United States. The bank has suffered a considerable and unexpected loss, not at all connected with the circumstances above alluded to, caused by the failure of Messrs. Edward Burstall and Co., who were extensive and highly esteemed customers of the branch in Quebec. Messrs. Burstall had placed assets in the hands of their bankers, Messrs. Harrison, Watson and Co., of Hull, sufficient to meet the whole of their drafts on England, issued in the course of their business. In the confidence felt in the respectability of the parties these bills were freely purchased by this and other banks. The loss which Messrs. Burstall suffered by the failure of Messrs. Harrison and Co., and the consequent return of a large portion of their bills dishonoured, rendered their suspension inevitable. Messrs. Burstall have since offered a compromise to their creditors, which the bank has accepted. The directors have thought it right to state these circumstances as explanatory of the accounts which they now present, which do not enable them to accompany their dividend with a bonus. It will, however, be satisfactory to the proprietors to learn that ample provision has been made to meet those losses, and that the net profit for the year is still sufficient, after making that provision, to enable the directors to pay a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income tax; and to carry a sum amounting to £4,706 17*s.* 9*d.* to the rest or balance of undivided profits. The directors will only add an expression of their belief that the period of commercial depression they have alluded to is now passing away, and they look forward to a gradual return of prosperity throughout the provinces. The directors have now to announce to the proprietors that a half-yearly dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, will be payable on the 5th July next."

LIABILITIES.

Capital		£1,000,000	0 0
Circulation		202,626	15 0
Deposits		367,921	8 6
Bills payable and other liabilities (on the same principle as reported in former statements)	£616,941 10 9		
Less amount reserved to meet bad and doubtful debts, included in above sum	57,551 19 7		
		559,389	11 2
Reserve to meet bad and doubtful debts, as above ...		57,551	19 7
Reserve for Christmas dividend		30,000	0 0
Undivided net profit		120,768	6 1
		£2,428,258	0 4

ASSETS.

Specie and cash at bankers	£294,775	19 7
Bills receivable and other securities	2,086,482	0 9
Bank premises	47,000	0 0
	£2,428,258	0 4

Profit and Loss Account to December 31, 1857.

Dividends declared as follows:—					
At Midsummer, 1857, payable July, 1857	£30,000				
At Christmas, 1857, payable, Jan. 1858	30,000				
				60,000	0 0
Balance in hand, being undivided net profit to Dec. 31, 1857				120,768	6 1
				£180,768	6 1
Balance of undivided net profit to Dec. 31, 1857	£146,061	8	4		
Less bonus paid in July, 1857	30,000	0	0		
				£116,061	8 4
Net profit for the year 1857, after deduction of all current charges, and providing for bad and doubtful debts ...				64,706	17 9
				£180,768	6 1

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said he was quite sure that he need not remind the proprietors that the last few months had been to the directors months of great anxiety. That anxiety had been participated in, he was bound to say, by their local directors and officers, and it was only due to those gentlemen to declare that the discretion and zeal which they had manifested were such as to elicit the approval of the board (hear). This expression of approval was especially due to Mr. Paton, their general manager, who had undergone great anxiety in dealing with the conflicting interests which were brought to bear upon him, especially as to keeping up the payments of the bank in specie. The proprietors would see that the board had, in accordance with a desire expressed at their last meeting, entered in the statement of accounts the amount reserved to meet bad and doubtful debts; and the amount so reserved appeared as a separate item among "liabilities." It would also be perceived that the directors alluded in the report particularly to the failure of the firm of Messrs. Edward Burstall and Co., of Quebec. He thought it only right to the proprietors that he should state what the loss sustained by the bank, in consequence of that failure, really was, because they had reason to believe that the amount had been greatly over-rated out of doors; their utmost loss would be £19,000, and it might be reduced to £18,000, while he might mention that their reserve to meet it was £20,000.

A proprietor here asked what was the total amount of the bank's claims against Burstall and Co. ?

The Chairman replied that, including the British bills of exchange on Harrison, Watson and Co., and the local liabilities in Canada, the gross amount was about £70,000.

Several proprietors here expressed their surprise at the magnitude of this debt.

The Chairman observed, that the directors could not take blame to themselves for having readily taken a large amount of bills on Messrs. Harrison, Watson, and Co. They had been in the habit of making careful and repeated inquiries, and had been led to consider their acceptances as good as the Bank of England.

A proprietor did not think they ought to have been induced by any specious representations to have trusted any one house to such an extent.

The Chairman could not allow that they had been guided by specious representations, and in confirmation of this he might state that the private estates of two of the partners were expected to realise £70,000 or £80,000, after paying off the private claims. The firm was an old established and very extensive business, and they could not have suspected that with their experience they would have been mad enough to trust one man upwards of £100,000 and another £90,000 without any security whatever, as they had done. He begged also to state that the directors were not regardless of the amount of credit which they gave to this firm, because their instructions were not to have more than a certain amount of Burstall's bills outstanding without advice of acceptance, and the amount of unaccepted bills held by the bank was actually under the prescribed limit. He had, however, already stated that the loss would not exceed £19,000, and might be reduced to £18,000, while they had reserved to meet it £20,000. He was not aware that he need make any further observations on the accounts, but he should be glad to answer any questions that might be put, as far as he could do so consistently with the interests of the bank. He might however state, that some of the proprietors had on former occasions expressed a wish that they should hold two meetings in the year, and the directors were quite ready to acquiesce in the wish so expressed. They would be happy to meet the proprietors twice a year in future; but they must not expect to have a statement of accounts laid before them oftener than at present.

Mr. J. Vance, M.P., expressed his satisfaction that this bank had kept open its doors in paying demands upon them in specie, when a contrary course was taken by banks in the States; but he must express his great surprise that an amount of £7,000 should have been involved by this bank on the stability of any private bankers. It was impossible, in the country especially, to ascertain the real position of private bankers; and he could not help thinking that if the directors had made inquiries in the proper channels, they would have found out that they were not justified in pursuing the course they did. He would also state, however unpleasant it might be, that it was rumoured abroad that the directors got large accommodation, and that there were those among them who got as much as £100,000 upon their name. This was a matter of serious consequence, and he thought the chairman ought to state the largest amount of liabilities any director had running, because he was of opinion that a director should be treated with even more caution than an individual proprietor, because he had friends at the bank to back him up. And moreover a director ought himself to abstain from trenching too much on a bank. He also wished to know whether they had increased or diminished their reserve fund since last year, and whether the circulation of £292,600 was higher or lower than it was this time last year.

The Chairman, in answering the several questions put to him by Mr. Vance, said, with respect to the claim on Messrs. Harrison and Watson, the money was not advanced upon their name alone; the drawers of the bills were themselves considered to be quite good, and, as the report stated, they had actually placed assets in the hands of Harrison, Watson, and Co. sufficient to meet the whole amount of their bills upon them. These assets, however, had been used—he ought to say improperly—and had it not been for this circumstance, Messrs. Burstall and Co. would still have been solvent. With regard to the amount of accommodation had by the directors, he would mention that it had long been a rule that no director

here in London should receive any accommodation whatever from the bank; and this rule had always been, and was at the present time, strictly acted upon. In the colonies he believed his (the chairman's) was the only house connected with any member of the board which had an account with the bank, and that account was opened at the first establishment of the bank, having been removed to it from one of the local institutions. He was not at the moment aware of the exact amount of the liabilities of his connections in the colonies to the bank; but he was pretty sure they did not reach one-third of the amount specified by the honourable proprietor. With regard to the question of the increase of the rest, it would be seen from the statement of accounts that on the 31st of December, 1856, the balance of undivided profit amounted to £146,061 8*s.* 4*d.*; but out of that balance a bonus was paid in July, 1857, of £30,000, thereby reducing it to £116,061 8*s.* 4*d.*, at which amount the rest would stand, say after the 5th of July, 1857. At the same period this year the balance of undivided profits would amount to £120,768 6*s.* 1*d.*, thereby showing an increase over last year, as stated in the report, of £4,706 17*s.* 9*d.* The circulation of the bank was much less than last year. As the report stated, the position of trade had led to a great contraction of all banking business, and this of course affected the circulation.

Mr. Borradaile did not think the directors were chargeable with want of vigilance in having allowed the Messrs. Burstall to draw so largely on the bank in Hull. The two partners who represented that bank were men of very large landed estate, and parties from that district with whom he had communicated at the time, and who he believed were in a position to be well informed, had expressed the greatest surprise at the failure. In reference to the statement of accounts which had been presented, he did not like the mode of dealing with their profits, seeing that they had a reserve fund which was never likely to be touched. He thought the directors might have given a bonus of 10*s.* in addition to the dividend of 30*s.* He approved of having two meetings in the year, and cordially supported the report.

Mr. Vance was glad to find that their circulation had been reduced, because in the state in which trade had been it could not be kept up with advantage to the bank.

Mr. Phillpotts, of Gloucester, expressed his thanks to the board for the manner in which they had conducted the business of the bank. He begged to throw out as a suggestion that the report should be circulated previous to the meeting, with a view especially to the requirements of gentlemen not residing in London.

The chairman thanked Mr. Phillpotts for the courteous manner in which he had made the suggestion, and promised it should have the attention of the board.

The report was then received, adopted, and ordered to be printed and circulated.

The directors retiring by rotation, Messrs. H. Barnwell, W. R. Chapman, and J. J. Cummings were severally re-elected, and Mr. John Ranking was elected a director, in the room of the late Sir Robert Campbell.

On the motion of Mr. H. Alexander, seconded by Mr. Borradaile, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the chairman and directors for their zeal and assiduity during the past year, and the proceedings terminated.

BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

The twenty-fourth annual general meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held on the 14th June, at the offices in Threadneedle-street, T. Wingate Henderson, Esq., in the chair, when the secretary read the following report of the directors:—

The result of the operations of the bank for the year ending the 12th of October, 1857, is shown in the following statement:—

Balance at the credit of profit and loss account, 13th October, 1856, as per last report			£201,777	17 6
Net profit in the year, to 12th October, 1857, provision having been made for bad and doubtful debts, income tax, &c.			171,604	15 11
			£733,382	13 4
Dividend among the proprietors:—				
At April, 1857, a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and a bonus at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, making together £4 per share	£90,000	0 0		
At October, 1857, the same	90,000	0 0		
			£180,000	0 0
Balance at the credit of profit and loss, 12th Oct., 1857,			£193,382	13 4
Out of which have been paid the April dividend and bonus for the current year, amounting to £90,000.				

The assets and liabilities, 12th October, 1857, were:—

ASSETS.

Specie and cash at bankers	£961,905 8 9
Government securities and loans	223,112 11 8
Guarantee fund investments	200,000 0 0
Bills receivable and other securities for advances ...	3,462,609 18 11
Bank premises in the colonies and in London	115,124 8 10
	£4,962,752 8 2

LIABILITIES.

Circulation			£678,066	0 0
Deposits			2,480,630	2 0
Bills payable, and other liabilities ...			420,673	12 10
			£3,579,369	14 10
Capital	£900,000	0 0		
Guarantee fund ...	200,000	0 0		
Dividend and bonus due Oct. 14, 1857... ...	90,000	0 0		
Profit and loss balance ..	193,382	13 4		
			1,383,382	13 4
			£4,962,752	8 2

The directors refer to these statements with satisfaction, as affording gratifying evidence that the business continues to be of a highly remunerative character; although increased competition has necessarily had the effect of diminishing the general profits of banking in Australia, especially in exchange transactions. The mercantile community had

suffered from the condition of the import markets during the year, but the productive interests of the colonies continued to exhibit great prosperity. The working of the gold fields was assuming a more settled character through the application of capital and machinery; the produce had slightly diminished as compared with 1856, but it still exceeded that of any previous year. Subsequently to the closing of the books in October the monetary convulsion which was experienced in England and America extended its influence to Australia, but in a modified degree. The directors, however, have the satisfaction to state that, at the date of the latest advices, no loss of any consequence affecting the bank had occurred in the colonies; while in London none whatever was sustained during the crisis. The most important occurrence connected with banking in Australia since the last meeting has been the introduction of the system of allowing interest on deposits, which the directors regret to state has recently become general in the colonies of New South Wales and Victoria. Sufficient time has not elapsed to ascertain the effects of this measure, but it must be evident that, if continued, it will in some degree affect future profits. The uncertainty which prevails with respect to the future postal communication with Australia has interfered with the intention of the directors to submit at this time a plan for altering the periods of holding public meetings, with the object of shortening the interval between the closing of the annual accounts and their presentation to the proprietors. They trust, however, that some permament arrangement for the conveyance of the mails will be effected in time to enable them to do so at the December meeting. The directors have now only to intimate their intention to declare the ensuing dividend and bonus at the same rate that has been paid since October, 1854, namely, of 20 per cent. per annum, payable on the 12th October, free of income tax.

(Signed) T. Wingate Henderson, Chairman.

The report was received with applause.

The Chairman, in moving that the report be received and adopted, said the directors met the shareholders again upon this occasion with great pleasure, believing as they did that the accounts which were submitted to them were of such a character (when they considered the commercial crisis of the past year) as could not fail to give satisfaction. The accounts were made up in the same form as in former years, and they were of that character that there were only a few items which called for explanation. Perhaps the item he ought chiefly to refer to was that of the bank premises, which had stood in the former year at £98,000, whereas this year it was increased to £115,000. The proprietors would recollect that on the last occasion he had entered into details on this subject, and he believed that that explanation was satisfactory to the proprietors; but for the information of those gentlemen who were not present at the meeting of last year, he trusted he might be permitted to say that this large increase on the item referred to was not an optional matter, but had been forced upon them as a necessity, and he believed that gentlemen who were acquainted with the colony would know it was impossible to carry on the extended business in Melbourne or Sydney in hired premises. (Hear.) With respect to this branch of expenditure, the real value of their premises was greatly in excess of what they had been estimated at in their books, (hear, hear), and if gentlemen compared this item with the corresponding item of other banks doing business in the colony it would not be unfavourable to the case of this bank. Next, they would observe a diminution of specie of nearly half a million, but they had a corresponding increase in bills receivable. There had been a great depres-

sion in trade, and the bank withdrew for a time their accommodation to as great an extent as possible; but the latter period of the year showed they were in a much more favourable position. Next came the item of Government securities; this represented colonial government securities; and here he should state the directors had held it to be a sound policy to receive those securities, and thus encourage and promote the credit of the colonial government, in aiding works of public utility and enterprise. (Cheers.) The next point to which he would refer was the proposed alteration of the time of holding their meetings. Last year this subject had been brought to the notice of the directors. A contract had been made for the conveyance of the mails by the route of the Red Sea, which, if it were carried out, would place this company in a very different position. But, unfortunately, that contract had proved to be very nearly a failure. It would be recollected that when the time for meeting was appointed for June, they received accounts only every six months, and it was natural that the month of June should be named; but if the arrangement of the route by the Red Sea should be carried out, they might expect to have their accounts by the end of January, and thus get rid of the inconveniences of the accounts standing over for six months. Perhaps he might mention to the court, though they had no positive information, that negotiations were in progress to take up the old contract or to have a new contract; and it was very possible the directors would be able to meet the proprietors in December next. The next subject referred to in the report was the usage adopted in the colonial banks, of paying interest on deposits and current accounts. For the last six months the directors had seen this practice resorted to with great regret, but they were forced into it by the competition of other banks. (Hear, hear.) He might state that the policy of the board on the subject was not dictated by any narrow view of how this principle might affect the profits of the bank, they took a wider view, and they were unanimous in thinking that the system could not be continued without being prejudicial to the colonists, and to their customers generally. Even in this country it was a moot point whether paying interest on deposit was a prudent course to pursue, but the mischief was undoubted and tenfold in the colonies. In this country parties had the opportunity of making short loans to any extent, but in the colonies there was no such opportunity, and the deposits remained a dead weight in the coffers of the bank. Some of the banks, however, which had entered upon this system, he believed, were not indisposed to retrace their steps. As to the general prospects and position of the bank, the directors had nothing to communicate but what was cheering and satisfactory. The bank had escaped the late commercial pressure without the loss of one shilling. (Applause.) They had always had means at their command, and they had employed their money at high rates with little chance of loss. The colonies were in a most prosperous and thriving condition—docks, wharves, electric telegraphs and railways, were making Australia a well-settled country. (Cheers.) With reference to the concluding paragraph of the report, which was like a lady's letter, for it was a postscript, it contained the essence of all that preceded it; he begged to impress on the minds of the proprietors that this was a very high, and he might say an exceptional dividend. No circumstances could justify the directors in leading them to rely upon a continuance of it; but he begged to state that in the four years previous the directors had appropriated no less than £112 per cent. on their capital in dividends, bonuses, and guaranteed fund of £200,000. (Hear, hear.) It had been the practice to pay dividends on assumed profits, whereas they were now paid on profits which were known, and in cash. He moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. Oliver Farrer seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The directors retiring by rotation were severally re-elected.

Mr. M'Dougall rose to move an addition to the amount appropriated for the remuneration of the directors, and showed that the directors in the year 1845 (and for five years) had voluntarily reduced their remuneration from £230 each to £100; in other words, the sum they were entitled to was £2,800, which they reduced to £1,200. He concluded an able address by moving, "That the annual sum appropriated to the directors be increased from the 1st of January last to £3,600, being an annual increase of £800 on what they had originally received."

Mr. East seconded the motion, which was warmly supported by Sir Minto Farquhar.

Mr. Priaux opposed the motion. He considered this to be a packed meeting. Let this question be taken into consideration at the next meeting.

Mr. Sergeant Gazelee moved as an amendment, that the consideration of this question be postponed till the next meeting.

Mr. Oliver Farrer warmly repudiated the idea that he as a director had ever been actuated by the consideration of pounds, shillings and pence. The question was one for the shareholders to decide; if there was a difference of opinion let the board hear no more of the matter.

A show of hands was taken, when there appeared—

For the amendment	16
Against it	34

The amendment being negatived, the original proposition was put, when the numbers were—

In favour of it	34
Against it	12

Resolution carried.

Mr. Priaux said he would demand a ballot; but ultimately he or Mr. Serjeant Gazelee said he would move the non-confirmation of the resolution at the next meeting.

Votes of thanks to the chairman, directors, and secretary concluded the proceedings.

CLYDESDALE BANKING COMPANY.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the company was held in Glasgow, on Monday, the 14th of June, to consider the proposal to transfer the business of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank to the Clydesdale Bank. Mr. Alexander Hastie in the chair.

Mr. Readman read the report, which stated that the meeting had been called chiefly for the purpose of considering an agreement entered into with the directors of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank, and which has since received the unanimous approval of the partners of that bank. A deputation of the directors of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank made proposals to this bank for an amalgamation of the two concerns. The directors were at first averse from entering into any negotiation, as they had every reason to be satisfied with the success of the business of the Clydesdale Bank; but at the same time they saw certain advantages which would result from a judicious arrangement, and, keeping in view the public misfortune which would arise if, from any cause, the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank should be unable to continue its business, they approved the preliminary heads of agreement, on the understanding that an investigation of the affairs of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank should be made by the officers of the Clydesdale Bank. This

examination exhibited a result much more unfavourable than the directors were led to anticipate, and when they communicated the details to the directors of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank, it was arranged that the latter should explain to their own partners the views entertained by the directors. The agreement now submitted to the consideration of the proprietors had been carefully considered by the directors, and they simply recommend its adoption.

The Chairman said, the report and heads of agreement, which were in the hands of the shareholders, pretty fully expressed the object of the meeting. Overtures had been made by the directors of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank, and the negotiation had resulted in the proposed agreement, which had been prepared with great care, and after the fullest inquiry. He would adduce three reasons for the amalgamation:—1. It would be of advantage to the public, as it would prevent the recurrence of such a panic or pressure as occurred last year; 2, it would be of advantage to the shareholders of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank, as it would secure a prudent and careful winding up of their affairs; and it would, in the third place, be of advantage to the Clydesdale Company, as it would give them an increased power of issue and increased business, which in course of time would realise larger dividends. The Clydesdale affairs were at present in a most favourable state. (Cheers.) The staff of officials had been increased and another agency established in London, so that they were in a position to carry out the amalgamation with complete success. He then moved, and Mr. Johnston seconded, a series of resolutions for carrying the object of the meeting into effect, and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman then moved resolutions to convert the shares of the Clydesdale Banking Company into consolidated stock, and fixing the amount of capital stock at £1,000,000. He explained that this change would convert ten £10 shares into £100 stock, and would reduce the nominal uncalled-up capital of £2,000,000 to an actual capital of £1,000,000.

Mr. P. White seconded the motion and it was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. R. Stewart, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the chairman and directors for their able management during the crisis; and, on the motion of Mr. P. White, the best thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Readman, the manager, for his services.

The meeting then separated.

Communications.

To the Editor of the Bankers' Magazine.

THE STAMP ON CHEQUES.

SIR,—The new act imposing a 1*d.* stamp on bankers' cheques reminds one forcibly of O'Connell's remark, that "there never was an Act of Parliament framed through which a coach and six might not easily pass." For my own part I can find no two persons agreeing as to where the exemptions begin and end under this new Act. Perhaps, therefore, you would be kind enough to favour me with your opinion as to the following points:—

1. A customer in the country instructs his banker to advise their London agents to pay a party an amount on application. Does the customer's cheque, *or order*, conveying these instructions, require a stamp?

2. Or, as the party before receiving the amount must draw a cheque for it, is this the cheque that ought to be stamped?

3. And would it be exempt, if the party applied personally for the amount, and received it over the counter? In either case it would seem to be clearly a payment to a second party.

4. The custom of London bankers appears to be, to demand stamped cheques for payments advised by their country correspondents, on application; and if the latter demand a stamped cheque from the customer for the order, the Government gets two stamps on one transaction? Surely this cannot be the intention of the Act.

5. Again, a customer presents his cheque for a banker's draft: does such cheque require a stamp, or is it exempt, from the fact that the bankers pay a stamp or composition on the issue of their draft?

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

Gloucester, June 12, 1858. A CONSTANT READER.

[1. The letter does not require a stamp.
2. The cheque does.
3. We think it would not be exempt.
4. We do not see why a stamp should be required for the order.
5. If a cheque be used to obtain the draft, we think the cheque should be stamped.]

CHEQUES DRAWN WITHOUT NEGOTIABLE WORDS. STAMP LAWS. OBLITERATION OF ADHESIVE STAMPS.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your stating whether a cheque drawn payable to "self" or to a third party, without the words "or bearer" or "or order," or with these words erased, is not liable to stamp duty as a bill of exchange; and whether a banker in paying such a cheque, not so stamped, does not subject himself to a penalty of £50.

Please also state whether *any* cheque, however or wherever made, can be *legally* drawn or paid without a stamp—saving of course the cheques of those institutions or societies, which by special act are exempt from the operation of the stamp laws.

While on the subject I may add that it is the practice of the bank of which I am at present a member to receive and pay the following species of cheques.

Cheques unstamped:—

1. All cheques presented personally by the drawer and made payable to "self" whether the word "bearer" be erased or not.

2. All cheques or orders presented for the purpose of retiring acceptances, these orders individually frequently comprising a long series of separate and distinct advices, and

3. All cheques (and this species happen to be pretty numerous) *the amount of which is payable in bills instead of cash.*

Cheques having adhesive stamps affixed are passed, as is too generally the case in banking practice, without much regard being paid to the manner in which the obliteration of the stamp is effected, the majority of such cheques indeed having nothing upon the stamp but a cross, or part of the name of the drawer, or a portion of the amount in figures. When the law is explicit, it is to be regretted that its provisions should be overlooked, particularly by those who should be peculiarly the means of disseminating a correct knowledge of them, and seeing that they are

practically carried out; but in too many instances it would appear that the ignorance of such parties is about as complete as, and considerably more disgraceful than, that of their erring constituents, and that when consulted by the latter for guidance or information, they truly but only serve to make "confusion worse confounded."

Yours, &c.,
A PROBATIONER.

22nd June, 1858.

[We think a cheque without the words "or order" "or bearer" requires to be stamped as a bill of exchange. In our opinion all cheques require to be stamped either as cheques or bills, and we think that the three species referred to as being paid without stamps are all liable to stamp duty. The Government have stated they will not prosecute for penalties in some of the instances given, but it is of course open to private individuals to avail themselves of the law as it stands.]

THE PENNY STAMP ON CHEQUES.

SIR,—I annex copy of a letter received from the secretary to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, relative to an exemption under the new act for stamping bankers' cheques. In the uncertainty which prevails as to the operation of this act, perhaps a notice of this communication in the next number of your magazine might prove useful to the banking community.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
T. C. FLETCHER, Country Manager.

London and Westminster Bank,
Lothbury, E.C., 19th June, 1858.

(COPY.)

"SIR,—I have laid before the board your letter of the 5th instant, requesting to be informed whether the exemption from stamp duty in favour of cheques drawn by a customer upon his banker, payable to self and presented personally for payment, applies to cheques drawn in a similar manner upon a London banker on account of a country bank, and personally presented by the customer of the country bank to the London banker for payment.

"I am directed in reply to state that the board are advised that no valid distinction can be made between the two cases.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,
"(Signed) THOMAS KEOGH.

"Inland Revenue, Somerset House,
"London, W.C., 15th June, 1858.
"T. C. Fletcher, Esq."

THE LATE BANKING FAILURES.

THE DISTRICT BANK, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On the 15th June a meeting of the creditors of the Northumberland and Durham District Bank was held in the Queen's Head, Newcastle-on-Tyne, to consider the propriety of appointing a creditors' representative to watch over the interests of the creditors with reference to compromises, &c. Mr. P. G. Ellison occupied the chair, and, after considerable discussion, the following resolutions, proposed by Mr. John Ranson, of Sunderland, and seconded by Mr. John Fenwick, were agreed to:—"That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable, and in accordance with the Joint Stock Companies Act, that the creditors of the Northumberland and Durham District Banking Company should have notice of, and assent to or dissent from, all compromises which the official liquidators of the said banking company may propose to enter into with the shareholders or debtors of the company under the 16th section of the Joint Stock Companies Act, of the 20th and 21st of Victoria, cap. 14." "That, inasmuch as the creditors of the said banking company are upwards of 6,400 in number, it is expedient, with the view of preventing the heavy expense, delay, and difficulty necessarily attendant upon communication with so large a body of creditors, that representatives of the creditors should be appointed for the purpose mentioned in the preceding resolution, whose services shall be rendered gratuitously, save as to actual disbursements, travelling expenses, &c." "That this meeting is of opinion, therefore, that an application should be made to the Court to sanction the appointment of representatives of the creditors of the Northumberland and Durham District Banking Company for the purposes above mentioned; and that Mr. Peregrine George Ellison, Mr. William Dunn, and Mr. Samuel Alcock are, in the opinion of this meeting, fit and proper persons to be such representatives of the creditors."

THE NEWPORT OLD BANK.—A final dividend of 4*d.* in the pound was declared on the 16th June, in the Court of Bankruptcy for the Bristol District, on the estate of Williams and Sons, of Newport, bankers. This, with the former dividends amounting to 4*s.* 4*d.*, makes a total payment of 4*s.* 8*d.* in the pound on the debts proved, which reached nearly £69,000.

THE LIVERPOOL BOROUGH BANK.—We are informed that there is now no doubt that proceedings are being taken on the part of shareholders, representing shares to a very large amount, against at least one director of the Liverpool Borough Bank, and that the case will, in all probability, be tried at the Liverpool assizes.

MONMOUTHSHIRE AND GLAMORGANSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.—Creditors of the Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire Banking Company, which stopped payment half-a-dozen years ago, are required to come in and prove their claims before the Master of the Rolls, "or they will be precluded from making any claim upon the assets in the hands of the official managers now about to be divided."

FAILED ESTATES,

Letters from Hamburgh mention that the house of Mr. Theodor Schmidt, which was one of the principal among those that suspended during the crisis in November last, has resumed business, having paid all demands with interest and charges.

A second dividend of 3*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, making altogether 13*s.* 6*d.*, has just been declared under the estate of Messrs. Herman Sillem, Sons, and Co., who having extensive connections with the North of Europe, failed during the crisis in November last.

Notes of the Month.

Loans to Foreign States.—At the close of last year there was a debt due to England, on account of the Greek loan, of £661,957, and one on account of the Sardinian loan of £1,964,241. As regards the Russo-Dutch loan, we are officially informed that the payment of that loan is not of the nature of a loan or subsidy repayable to the British Government. Under conventions, dated the 19th of May, 1815, and 16th of November, 1831, confirmed by the Acts of the 55th of Geo. III., cap. 115, and 2nd and 3rd of William IV., cap. 81, Great Britain agreed to pay a moiety of the capital of the Russian loan made in Holland, and the interest thereof, at the rate of five per cent. per annum, together with a sinking fund of one per cent. for the extinction of the same. The original portion of the loan guaranteed by Great Britain in the year 1856 was 25,000,000 florins, Dutch currency; the principal paid off under the operation of the sinking fund amounts to 10,500,000 florins, leaving a balance still due by Great Britain of 14,500,000 florins.

The National Debt.—On the 31st of March last the unredeemed national or public debt of the United Kingdom amounted to the sum of £779,225,493, on which an annual interest of £23,383,768 is payable. The capital of the debt consists of £2,991,858 Two-and-a-Half per Cents., £418,300 Two-and-Three-Quarters per Cents., £772,511,217 Three per Cents. (Consols), £2,871,515 Three-and-a-Half per Cents., and £432,603 Five per Cents. The total reduction of interest in the two years ending the 31st of March last amounted to £63,672, and the total concurrent increase of interest to £180,083. The amount of debt created was £6,037,930, and that of the debt redeemed £2,125,128. From the 1st of September, 1808, up to the 21st of March, 1858, £51,803,907 capital stock was cancelled, besides £166,389 Long Annuities, &c. These particulars are gathered from a return moved for by Mr. Ricardo, M.P.

The Newly Discovered Gold Fields.—We extract from the *San Francisco Bulletin* the following description of the gold fields of Frazer River, which are exciting considerable attention throughout California:—"The mining region extends from the vicinity of Fort Colville, in Washington territory, north-westerly to the vicinity of Fort Thompson and Shuswap Lake, in the British possessions, in latitude 48 to 50 deg. N., and in longitude ranging from 116 to 121 deg. W. Gold has been found in considerable quantities on the Pen d'Oreille river and its tributaries on the Okanagan river and lake, and the

streams which are tributary, and on Thompson river and the Shuswap lake. The richest diggings yet found are on or near the Shuswap lake, in latitude 50 deg. N., and in longitude 119 deg. W. The character of the gold on the Pen d'Oreille is scale, or float gold, and fine dust, about 17 or 18 carats fine. That in Shuswap is coarser, and is valued at from $18 to $18 50 c. per oz. Most of that which has yet been taken out has been from surface diggings, although during the winter miners on the Pen d'Oreille have dug to the bed rock and been very successful. Two gentlemen, Sullivan and Daly, took out from near the bed rock in about five days upwards of $3,000 in dust. They worked with the common rocker. About 100 persons have spent the past winter in these mines. The number of men on Thompson river and near the Shuswap lake we have no means of knowing. The Indians, however, have taken out and sold to traders of the Hudson Bay Company and others a large amount of dust, and the most undisputed evidences exist of the richness of the mines in that vicinity. Parties who have been there say that good diggings are found on the shores of Lake Okanagan and its outlet, as well as on the tributaries to that lake. Sufficient is now known to establish the belief that industrious, healthy, and persevering miners can make very good wages in these mines, even with the most common appliances used in extracting the gold.

THE INLAND REVENUE.—The second report of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue has just been issued, and it presents on the whole more favourable results than could have been anticipated, considering the late commercial revulsion. The principal items may thus be briefly classified. For the year ending the 31st of March, 1857, the gross receipts of the Excise duties were £19,758,460, and for the year ending the 31st of March last they were £18,495,888, being a decrease of £1,262,572. The principal diminution has been in malt, which for the year 1857 was £6,710,236, while for the past year it was £5,492,006. There has been an increase in the duties on spirits from £9,132,601 to £9,280,963, and a decrease on hops from £725,768 to £489,008. The quantity of British spirits exported was, in the year 1857, 5,717,529 gallons, and in the present year the quantity has been reduced to 3,524,865 gallons. The quantity of malt charged with duty in 1857 was 39,127,386 bushels, and in 1858, 41,164,258 bushels. When compared with the amount of duty paid, these figures may appear anomalous, but the discrepancy is accounted for by the fact that the comparison of the receipts in the two years is disturbed by the payment, in 1856, of a portion of the war duty, which was chargeable up to the 5th of July in that year. In the year 1857 the quantity of paper charged with duty was 192,297,399 lb., and in the present year the quantity was only 187,414,667 lb. With regard to stamp duties there has been a slight increase, the total amount being, for 1857, £7,635,208; and for 1858, £7,684,331. The separate items under this head exhibit but very small variation, the chief being in the legacy and succession tax, which has decreased from £1,880,988 to £1,864,587; and fire insurance, which presents an increase from £1,388,975 to £1,423,783. The newspaper duty is put down at £164,102 for 1857, and for the present year at £158,991. The gross receipts under the head of land and assesses taxes have been, for 1857, £3,119,070; and for the present year, £3,155,716. With regard to the property and income tax the decrease in the respective periods is from £16,384,494 to £11,767,306. The cause of this diminution in the produce of the year just terminated is the reduction of the rate of duty from 16*d.* in the pound on incomes of £150 and upwards to 7*d.* in the pound, and on the lower class of incomes from 11½*d.* to 5*d.* in the pound. The commissioners add, in relation to the last item, that in comparing the assessments of the year ending the 5th of April, 1857 (the last as yet received), with those of the preceding year, it is found that the profits of trade in the principal manufacturing and agricultural districts imply a considerable increase in prosperity. This opinion is, however, now subject to some modification, after what has recently occurred in connection with the events of last autumn.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK DIRECTORS.—It may be remembered that some time since an unsuccessful effort was made by Mr. Owen's friends to obtain a mitigation of his sentence, and afterwards an influential deputation of the City of London waited upon the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with the view of obtaining the release of Mr. Alderman Kennedy. On the 11th of June, the marshal of the Queen's Prison received a warrant from the Home Office, granting the Royal pardon to Mr. Owen, who was at once liberated. Simultaneously with this communication information was received by the prison authorities that the sentence passed upon Mr. Alderman Kennedy would be reduced from nine to four months, which term expired on the 26th June.

MR. JOHN ROSS COULTHART, BANKER, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—This gentleman, whose portrait and memoir appeared in our last January number, has recently been appointed one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Lancaster, and took the oaths of office on the 31st of May, at the Salford Hundred Intermediate Sessions.

PENNY STAMP.—It has been intimated to the London bankers by the Board of Inland Revenue that, except in the mutual arrangements between bankers, clerks presenting cheques will not be recognised as representing their employers, so as to exempt such cheques when drawn payable to "self," and not to bearer, from the penny stamp. This decision will be satisfactory to the public, since the other practice would have led to numerous inconvenient and petty evasions, which, in the aggregate, would seriously have interfered with the revenue expected to be derived from the new impost.

LETTERS OF CREDIT TRANSFERABLE.—Subjoined is an abstract of the bill brought into Parliament to make letters of credit transferable, and which it is thought will greatly facilitate the use of those documents, now so extensively dealt with in every department of mercantile business.

"Any letter of credit engaging to advance or pay money, or to accept, honour, or pay any bill or bills of exchange or promissory note or notes whatever, and containing the words 'or order,' the contract created by such letter of credit shall be assignable at law and in equity by the person or persons, company, or co-partnership in whose favour the same may be made by his or their endorsement, which may be on the back or across the face of such letter of credit, and the same letter of credit and contract may be again in like manner transferred by the indorsee or transferee and by any subsequent indorsee or transferee, so that the same may be in the nature of a negociable instrument; and any such letter of credit and the contract thereby created may be enforced and sued upon in any court of law or equity, by or in the name of any or either of the parties to whom the same shall have been assigned, in like manner as in the case of a promissory note payable to order; and the possession of such letter of credit and the indorsement thereof shall be *primâ facie* evidence that value has been received for the same. Every letter of credit so made transferable as aforesaid shall be stamped as an agreement if issued in the United Kingdom, and be liable to stamp duty accordingly."

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

June 1.—Lord Stanley appointed President of the Board of Control, and Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton Secretary of State for the Colonies.

2.—Failure announced of Messrs. Rawson, Sons and Co., engaged in the East India and China trade.

18.—The rate of interest on French Treasury Bonds, fixed at 2½ per cent. for those of three months, 3 per cent. for those of four and five months, and 3½ per cent. for those of six to eleven months. This involves no alteration except a reduction of a half per cent. in the first-named descriptions.

19.—Announcement of the suspension of Mr. William Patterson, ship-builder of Bristol.

24.—Suspension of Messrs. Fenn, Kemm and Fenn, in the wholesale grocery trade; liabilities said to range between £35,000 and £50,000.

26.—Suspension of Messrs. Bristow, Warren and Harrison, in the wholesale grocery trade; with debts and liabilities amounting to £50,000 or £60,000.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following are the mercantile suspensions of the month, the only one of importance being that of Messrs. Rawson, Sons and Co., in the China trade:—

June.—Messrs. Rawson, Sons and Co., London, East India and China trade.
Mr. William Patterson, Bristol, shipbuilder.
Messrs. Fenn, Kemm and Fenn, London, wholesale grocery trade.
Messrs. Bristow, Warren and Harrison, London, wholesale grocery trade.

BANK MOVEMENTS.

Notice is given that application has been made to the Board of Trade for a charter of incorporation for a project called the Mediterranean Bank, "for establishing and maintaining a bank in London for the purpose of carrying on a banking business in Trieste, with agencies in the chief ports of the Mediterranean, the Adriatic, the Levant, and the Black Sea, with branch banks and agencies for receiving deposits, issuing notes, granting cash credits, making advances upon approved securities," &c.

The Sydney banks have ceased to allow interest on deposit and current accounts, and it is expected that the Port Phillip banks will follow the same example. No movement of the kind has taken place in Tasmania, and therefore there will be no necessity for any alteration.

BANKING OBITUARY.

On the 15th of June, at Gibson Square, Islington, Mr. James Cox, cashier of the Bank of England, aged 80.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, 1858.

THERE has been little active progress in mercantile or financial affairs this month. Partial depression has been occasioned through new commercial suspensions, and the doubt and uncertainty entertained with regard to the aspect of relations with France and America. At the same time, the singular circumstance has been presented of nearly the whole of the gold arrivals from Australia and America having been taken for transmission to the Continent, so that the stock of bullion in the Bank has in reality received little or no addition. Pending this condition of things, a stimulus has been given to the demand for accommodation to meet the revenue payments of the period, and these, together with other arrangements for the adjustment of the accounts of the half-year, have increased the value from 2¼ to ½ per cent. to 2⅞ to 3 per cent. At present the inquiry for trading purposes is not great; but it is felt that even in these channels the call is increasing, and hence the probability of the Bank advancing the *minimum* rate before they lower it. Political discussions have occasionally interfered with the current of ordinary transactions, but the success of the Government on all the leading measures induces the impression that they will now be able to carry on the administration for at least the next year. What is decidedly required to give hope to the commercial community is European peace; and if this can be assured, the favourable weather for the harvest here and abroad will before long exercise a beneficial influence. The American dispute is not viewed with the least apprehension, the moderation and firmness of the Foreign Secretary being likely to surmount every difficulty.

The fluctuations in the English funds have not been excessive, and slightly in the adverse direction. Occasional firmness has been apparent with purchases to a trifling extent by the public. The principal operator in *bonâ fide* investments has been the Government broker, who has taken on account of the Savings Banks and National Debt Commissioners about £60,000 to £70,000 per week. The late settlement showed that the speculative buyers for the rise had over-purchased, and this created some desire on the part of many to close their transactions, and hence the temporary depression. The unsettled position of the French Bourse, together with the anxiety resulting from the right of search dispute, has also caused some fluctuation, but not of a character to excite surprise, the satisfactory progress of the Ministry inducing an impression that any collision with foreign powers will be studiously avoided. Altogether the quotation has descended about three-quarters per cent., and the market closes with heaviness.

Foreign stocks have not been largely operated in, but the market has presented an unsteady appearance. Altogether the dealers have been cautious; and it may be well imagined how quotations have oscillated when it is stated that the scrip of the Brazilian New 4½ per cent. loan has varied between 1 premium and 1½ discount. The latest quotation is about 0¾ discount, and should things take a turn, a rapid rise would follow. Turkish, Spanish and Dutch have been purchased, though the market has not presented great animation, the condition of business in the other departments influencing the course of transactions here. It is quite certain that the movements of the past few weeks have been of a mixed and varied character, but not in the aggregate important.

The railway market has been depressed through unfavourable traffic receipts and the doubts entertained with respect to dividends. The operations have generally been on the side of sales, and the consequence is, that

quotations may be considered from £3 to £4 lower in the majority of the leading lines. French shares, which had been very heavy, have slightly recovered, and the market in this particular is in a more encouraging situation. Indian descriptions, however, do not rally, the pressure of the large mass of securities upon the market keeping the public from making investments. The anomalous position of an East India 5 per. cent guarantee being at ¼ to ½ discount, while money is only worth 2¾ per cent., is a remarkable circumstance in these days of progress.

Joint-stock bank shares are rather firmer, but not much business has been transacted in them, owing to the preparations for the various half-yearly meetings.

The produce markets remain in a dull and inactive state.

The following are the fluctuations in the English and Foreign Stocks, and Railway Shares, during the month just concluded.—

	Price on May 29.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on June 28.
ENGLISH FUNDS.				
Consols	96¼-96⅜	96⅜	95⅝	95¾-95⅞
Exchequer bills	31*s.* to 36*s.* pm.	37*s.* pm.	30*s.* pm.	33*s.* to 37*s.* pm.
FOREIGN STOCKS.				
Brazilian	101¾	102¼	101¼	102¼
Buenos Ayres	83⅝	84	82½	83
Chilian	104	105¼	103¼	104¾
Dutch, 2½ per cent.	66	66¾	66	66¾
Mexican	20¼	20¾	20¼	20½
Peruvian, 4½ per cent.	86½	87½	86¼	87
Russian	112	112¾	112	112½
Spanish	45	45¾	44¾	45¾
Turkish, 6 per cent.	96	96½	95	95⅝
Ditto, 4 per cent.	104	104⅜	103¾	104⅛
RAILWAY SHARES.				
Brighton	108½	109	107	108
Caledonian	82¾	84½	75½	75½
Eastern Counties	61	61⅞	59¾	60¼
Great Northern	102¼	103¼	100½	100
Great Western	54	55	48¼	49⅜
Lancashire and Yorkshire... ...	90	91¼	88⅞	89¼
London and North Western ...	92¼	93¼	89⅝	89⅝
Midland	92	93	90⅞	91⅛
North Staffordshire	12⅝	13	12	12
South Eastern	68¼	69⅜	67	67¼
South Western	94	95	92½	92½
York, Newcastle, and Berwick ...	91	91½	89¼	89¼
York and North Midland	72	72⅜	69¼	69⅜
East Indian...	105⅝	106¼	103	104⅜
Northern of France	36½	38½	35½	37⅝

THE GRAIN TRADE.

THE weather during the past month has been everything that could be desired as regards the grain crops, which in every part of the country are described as looking most luxuriant, and the forthcoming harvest promises to be one of the most prolific for many years. At Mark Lane and at the

provincial markets the supplies of all descriptions of grain have been quite equal to the demand, and prices have exhibited a gradual decline.

The *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been :—

Week ending 1858.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
May 22	111,989	... 44 6	... 44 4	... 1 0	... 55 3
May 29	113,483	... 44 8	... 44 7	... 1 0	... 56 0
June 5	116,646	... 44 9	... 44 7	... 1 0	... 56 11
„ 12	94,011	... 44 7	... 44 7	... 1 0	... 57 11
„ 19	77,592	... 43 10	... 44 6	... 1 0	... 58 7

The importations since the harvest of 1857 have been :—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total Qrs.
Forty-three weeks ended 12th May ...	3,201,969	2,991,354	6,193,323
Five weeks ended 16th June ...	441,736	546,995	988,731
	3,643,705	3,538,349	7,182,054

And the *weekly averages* have been :—

Forty-three weeks ended 12th May ...	74,000	70,000	144,000
Five weeks ended 16th June ...	88,000	109,000	197,000
More	14,000	39,000	53,000

THE STATE OF TRADE.

The operations in the manufacturing districts have not been extensive, and the various prices have scarcely improved, but there is a most marked tendency to firmness, with, in some instances, greater activity. With the American and Australian markets in their present condition, it is not to be anticipated that any great forward stride can be accomplished.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Some reviews and communications are held over at the latest moment. Letters, &c., intended for immediate publication should be addressed to the Editor of the *Bankers' Magazine*, No. 8, Birchin Lane, but remittances and orders for the publication should pass as usual through Messrs. Groombridge and Sons. The pressure of bank meetings has lately interfered with our space.

A TYRO in Banking and Commercial Matters. The three best works to consult are *Fortune's Epitome of the Funds*, *Anderson's Commercial Correspondence*, and *City Men and City Manners*. For the higher branches, *Gilbart's History and Principles of Banking* and *Gilbart's Practical Treatise on Banking*.

CASHIER.—The act just past will regulate the whole of those transactions.

ANTI-MONOPOLY.—The question, as propounded by our valued correspondent, has been frequently discussed, and with much the same effect.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE;

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

AUGUST, 1858.

ENGLISH CREDIT IN CANADA.

The gradual return by the business world to that public confidence so seriously disturbed by the crisis of 1857, and the progressive endeavour to re-adjust those relations, monetary, trading and commercial, which preceded it, have been marked by revelations which serve to throw no little light on the agencies which contributed, if not directly, to bring about that almost world-wide revulsion, at least to extend and deepen its disasters. A strong conviction is springing up in various quarters, that that crisis was induced by what may be called financial combination, amidst those who foresaw and calculated on the profits obtainable from a general disturbance of credit, and consequent general depreciation of property. That those most concerned in the course of proceedings calculated to increase the activity which, in almost all branches of trade, was already out of bounds, should be the very parties to profit by the results, and that these same parties should still seek further profit by a return to those proceedings that influenced so unfavourably general transactions, and continue to prevent their satisfactory settlement, is certainly cause for irritation, and is calculated to excite circumspection on the part of those whom these operations are calculated ultimately to injure. Whilst the crisis served to bring houses of the very best standing to the verge of bankruptcy, and overthrew many firms without any fault of their own but that of too unlimited confidence in others, and too little prudential foresight, it may safely be presumed that there were many who managed to make advantageous suspensions,—suspensions of a character the most galling to the true commercial mind, which looks for the

securance of independence and the maintenance of an honourable position, to those principles of moral equity which all engaged in commercial or trading transactions find it their interest to be more or less professedly guided by. When business men who have thus succeeded in putting to account the disturbed state of affairs at the period of the crisis, which if they did not help to originate they at least did all in their power to augment, are found to have been sustained in their course by banking institutions, the managers and directors of which, though intimately conversant with the nature and tendency of their operations, were disposed to overlook any irregularities or even glaring dereliction in principle, in order to share in the mutual benefit out of the injury inflicted upon others, indignation gives place to the fell necessity for a calm investigation of the means by which these fraudulent endeavours are rendered successful, with the view of guarding, if possible, against the injury resulting from their recurrence.

In England, any such preconcerted action between country banks and private individuals to take advantage of a third party, by some underhand agreement, would be at once denounced; commercial law and commercial custom would interfere to stamp upon the transactions thence arising their due amount of opprobrium. In Canada, however, we find in existence, and under the protection of law, a system showing little of the spirit in which our own transactions are carried on, against which the only available weapons are those which Sydney Smith brought against the Pennsylvanians, and which are equally applicable against other States of the American Union, and petition to the legislature to do away with a too special and an unjust enactment. The purposes to which the preference system, as it exists in Canada, may be put, has been sufficiently illustrated in the details connected with a case that has lately engaged some attention, that of Ross, Mitchell and Co. This Canadian firm with a London branch, which suspended at the period of the crisis for a large amount, and had nearly up to the present time been regarded as in course of full liquidation, under its promise to pay regular dividends to its creditors, Canadian and British, has left the latter suddenly to discover that whilst the Canadian creditors were fully secured, they were to be put off with an offer of 11*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, an amount subsequently increased to 12*s.* 6*d.*

This case is of value, so far as it throws light on the general bearing of a system by which so disgraceful an advantage can be taken of creditors with even superior claims to those who

have been so fully secured and favoured; and this too when the full assets, had they been fairly and equitably divided amongst all the creditors, would have realised a sum that, under the circumstances, would have been satisfactory to all concerned. In the arrangement come to with Canadian creditors, there has been exhibited an abuse, now for the first time meeting with a full exposure, though not, we fear, with an efficient correction, unless the expression of Mr. Greatorex, one of the English creditors of Ross, Mitchell, and Co., may be taken as such, namely, that he was willing to forego, to any extent that might be necessary, considerations connected with the obtaining a dividend, provided such a course of action could be taken as would sufficiently stigmatise the proceedings by which he and others had been kept in the dark as to the deposits made in favour of the Canadian creditors. There is no ground for supposing, however, that the house of Ross, Mitchell, and Co. have adopted a course that other firms, when the occasion arises, are prepared to disavow, and that to have driven them from the field would have been to do away with the effects of erroneous and exclusive legislation. It may at the same time be hoped that, following on the exposure of the preference system which has been made, and the sentiments which have been expressed, a higher tone of feeling may arise among colonial traders, and that London houses having dealings with them may receive their aid in the endeavour now being made, by petition to the Canadian legislature, to prevent an unfair and undue pre-eminence being given to Canadian creditors in cases of bankruptcy or suspension, by the repeal of a law which, in the light in which its operation is now regarded, is calculated to affect unfavourably our future dealings, and to limit the interest we feel in the growth and prosperity of the country, encouraging, as it does, speculation in its very worst forms. In the case in point, the Canadian creditors, which are mainly the Bank of Montreal, the City Bank of Montreal and the Bank of Toronto, may be considered as receiving in repayment more than they actually lent. The most scrupulous and honourable observance of the faith pledged by a debtor does not surely require, in case of bankruptcy, that any creditor should thus be favoured at the expense of others who are not to receive even their first costs, setting aside commission and interest.

The gradual rise in the rate of discounting bills in Canada approached at the period of the crisis to 25 or 30 per cent., and has continued since to rule at a high figure. Although the secu-

rities offered at that time might have been free from embarrassment and distrust, yet the hurried rush for accommodation, whilst preventing reserve in favour of any one of the customers, occasioned also the necessity for circumspection. Notes of the Bank were purchased by traders at rates that would have been ruinous, but that these were able again to quote still higher terms to their customers than those to which they had submitted, taking as securities for the fulfilment of contracts valuable mortgages, which could be readily passed over on occasion to the Banks. Thus, while the traders were enabled to take full advantage of the necessities of the farmers, the Banks accepted from them these mortgages at far more favourable rates, for these knew that all descriptions of property were but temporarily depressed, and would presently increase steadily in value.

The banks might be fairly considered as eager to aid in the operations of those engaged in transactions which amounted to a general transfer of property throughout the province, and to furnish them readily with the required means, when satisfied that their property was sufficient to cover all Canadian obligations, and that they were disposed to take full advantage of the preference system. There was no question, too, that the transactions would be profitable, if the individuals engaged in them were continued to be financially supported. It was estimated that a large number of the farmers would be unable to pay the interest of their several mortgages, and then the mortgagors would in time foreclose and enter into possession. These occupying farmers, with all their industry and all their economy, could not make up for the pecuniary loss arising from the low rate at which the mortgaged property was estimated. The trader who, out of the proceeds of British or foreign manufactured goods was thus enabled to operate, was sure when called on by the necessities of suspension which he had done everything, it might be thought, to invoke, to have the means of securing his own "good standing" in the province. In view of the position he could command, when brought temporarily to suspend, in respect to British creditors, it became his interest to postpone, if possible, the collection of any sums due to him in the interior, and which, if collected, might constitute a surplus amount over and above that required by Canadian creditors in the shape of assets. He would thus be enabled to represent those debts to himself as either doubtful or realizable only at remote periods, and so reduce the amount of required dividend.

The preference system thus becomes the base of operations of tradesmen, stock-jobbers and speculators—operations in which the Canadian Banks, through the character of the security which they take, are so nearly concerned, as in such a case as that of Ross, Mitchell & Co., to lead to an impression that there has been a preconcerted endeavour to take undue advantage of English credit. This system is calculated to aid mere schemers, for as it tempts the banks to increase unduly the accommodation which traders should have, were their foreign obligations taken into account, so it enables those thus favoured to gain an enormous advantage over lesser debtors. Houses which would otherwise at once sink down, the business abilities of whose partners would not be able to sustain them for a day, are thus maintained from year to year by means of provincial credit, secured by what may be regarded as an underhand contract, involving a breach of faith to British and foreign creditors, in a supposed and, at all times, a probable contingency.

By the system as thus pursued, the Canadian Banks become the competitors of British capitalists, as well as the auxiliaries of those whose operations measured by the full extent of their obligations, must be regarded as carried on, in a speculative spirit, to an illegitimate extent. This system may be viewed as the product of a spirit which, in former years, wrapped up the Canadians in a stolid conceit of their peculiar rights, and which now inclines them in the carrying out of their schemes, provincially as well as individually, to lean as far as possible on adventitious and extraneous aid, and at the same time to be watchful of every advantage that can be taken of the misapprehensions or unwariness of others. In the state of transaction and speculation going on in Canada, it is to our interests that the allurements offered by the preference system—which tends to better the condition of a trader in debt to our manufacturers with each succeeding suspension—should be set aside. We cannot afford that ventures should be made, by its aid, at our expense. As the law stands, it is in effect a mere pretext—an immoral interference in favour of individual and provincial interests imagined to be in want of further protection than that which principles of equity would afford—unworthy of a country having such claims on our co-operation in the development of its resources and the expansion of its energies.

It is time for Canada to discard the spirit of petty exclusiveness of which we have spoken, and which continues to be

manifested by not a few inconsistencies presented in her provincial laws, her parliamentary discussions and the individual action of her people. Progressing as Canada now is, in enterprise and in intelligence, with a population that has doubled in twenty years, with commerce enlarging still more rapidly, and with resources hastened in their development by heavy expenditures of British capital invested in her railroads to the extent of ten million pounds sterling, it is for her to profess as well as act in those intelligent and liberal principles by which alone success is to be worthily attained or permanently assured. It is to be hoped that by the action now being taken by some of our leading manufacturers and merchants engaged in the Canadian trade—that of petition to the Legislative Assembly—a law so demoralising in its tendency as that upholding the preference system, will be set aside. This action, however, to be successfully maintained, must be followed up by greater circumspection in our immediate dealings with Canada. It must be shown that whilst the law complained of is in force, we cannot exercise that implicit confidence which is essential to an unembarrassed and prosperous course of transactions. The Canadian Legislative Assembly is likely to act in the matter only under the compulsion arising from some expression of sentiment on the part of the trading and business portions of the Canadian population, who must be brought to feel that it is to their advantage to offer no opposition. The waywardness of disposition which would oppose the repeal of such a law would only serve to manifest yet more strongly the peculiarities of contracted minds, who are insensible to their own ultimate advantages, and only regard the present preference system in relation to their manœuvring schemes.

THE HALF-YEARLY JOINT-STOCK BANK MEETINGS.

THERE is at least one congratulatory feature amongst the many causes for regret arising out of the financial crisis of 1857. The evidence adduced before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Bank Acts has proved what the events of the three or four months dating from September last had already made sufficiently obvious, that for several years past a large proportion of the mercantile business of the country, and of London in particular, has been carried on under a system of fictitious credit.

A superabundance of money capital, annually receiving enormous

additions by the continued imports of gold, and constantly maintaining a fierce competition for employment—a wide expansion of our foreign trade, and the enlargement of banking facilities under the Joint-Stock Bank system to an extent hitherto unknown, but rendered necessary by the multiplication of transactions and the growing demands of commerce—rendered the process of converting paper engagements into hard cash comparatively easy. Credit accommodation was accorded upon the faith of specious representations or mere outward appearance, and as a natural consequence a speculative spirit was engendered which more or less animated every branch of the mercantile community. Over-trading became the rule, and unprincipled adventurers were enabled to establish themselves, and by the very boldness of their ventures and the magnitude of their operations to inspire confidence and temporarily to attain a position of high credit and apparent stability. Houses of limited means, which had previously carried on safe and profitable business proportioned to the capital embarked, stimulated by the seeming success of these new competitors, and by the facilities for obtaining discount accommodation, engaged in hazardous enterprises altogether beyond their resources; and banking institutions as yet in their infancy, aiming at the development of maturity, not only supported this system of over-trading by discounting to any extent without inquiry, but, in the hopeless effort to recover the losses resulting from their reckless conduct, in more than one instance embarked themselves in speculative projects wholly foreign to their legitimate calling, and by their own failure precipitated the catastrophe to which they had mainly contributed.

Permanence in a state of things so utterly devoid of solidity was impossible, and the moment the pressure came to be applied in one quarter the whole fabric crumbled to pieces. But severely as the blow has fallen upon many—innocent as well as guilty—and great as must the present inconvenience of a sudden and almost total disruption of public confidence inevitably be, like the thunder-storm in summer, the transient evil has been infinitely more than compensated by durable advantages. It has effectually cleared the commercial atmosphere of the unwholesome elements: it has substituted caution and prudence for temerity and recklessness, and has supplied the means of rebuilding the superstructure of mercantile faith upon foundations of a more solid character.

It is satisfactory to find that the metropolitan joint-stock banks have all of them not only passed through the ordeal unscathed, but have come forth from it the stronger for the trial. They have completely disproved the imputations so freely cast against them last December, of having by discounting lavishly and indiscriminately, in order to maintain the high rate of interests they were allowing upon customer's deposits, encouraged a system of unsound trade and jeopardised themselves; and they have established beyond question the fact that while they have liberally supplied the accommodation which the legitimate

operations of commerce demanded, their management has even in the most exciting times been remarkable for that wise discretion and sound judgment which are the only real securities either to shareholders or the public.

We have now before us the half-yearly reports of the majority of the joint stock banks that hold their meetings in the month of July, and of all of them it may be said that they more than confirm the favourable impression created by the reports issued and the explanations afforded at the previous half-yearly meetings in January last, ere the crisis was well over, and must lead to the conviction that almost, if not altogether, without exception, the joint-stock banking establishments of London are based upon solid foundations, and are conducted upon principles that will be proof against the severest test. The report of the London and Westminster, though much less in detail than its predecessor of January, which was, in all respects, a special document intended for a special purpose—to dissipate doubts by a frank and full *expose* of all the circumstances which could tell for or against the position of the bank in public estimation, is in every way as satisfactory. Besides the millions of paid-up capital contributed by the shareholders, this institution is under liabilities to the public in the shape of current accounts, deposits and circular notes, to the extent of £12,443,745. Six months ago their liabilities under this head was £13,889,000, shewing a decrease of £1,446,000 in round numbers. This falling off, however, indicates no actual diminution either in business or profits, but simply represents monies which had been tempted into the bank's coffers by the high rate of interest they found it necessary to allow on deposits during the period of high prices, and which was called in the moment the rate of interest was reduced to the point at which it would be more advantageous to the depositor to re-invest in the funds, and other ordinary securities, from which the money had been temporarily withdrawn. More or less, this remark applies to the ordinary liabilities of all the joint stock banks. The assets of the London and Westminster consist of £1,788,000 in Government stock, Exchequer bills, and Exchequer and India bonds; £11,023,000 in other securities, loans, discounted bills (that is, capital working in the ordinary banking operations, on the constant employment of which the profit of the bank depends); and £886,000 in cash—making a total available sum of £13,698,800. In addition to this, they have, including a balance from profit and loss account of £2,500 odd added to it this half-year, and interest for the six months, the security of a surplus or reserve fund amounting to £165,000. The profit and loss account exhibits a net profit for the half-year—after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, paying the income tax and setting apart £20,500 towards the new buildings in Lothbury, Bloomsbury, Southwark, and Temple Bar—of £93,882. From this sum the directors' dividend has been declared of 6 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 5 per cent. on the paid-up capital—or at the rate, taking bonus and dividend

together, of 16 per cent. per annum, the division in January last having been at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, with such security as the straightforward account, thorough business like management, and, above all, the unmistakeable proof of stability, the London and Westminster so recently afforded—the cupidity of a body of Shareholders must be large indeed, who express or feel dissatisfaction with such a profit.

The London Joint-Stock Bank show a nett surplus on the half-year's trading still larger, as compared with the capital invested—viz., £99,000 upon £600,000, or at the rate of upwards of 30 per cent. per annum. They share amongst their proprietors for the half-year in dividend and forms at the rate of 22½ per cent. per annum, being exactly the same as the last division, carrying over to the next account £32,000, which will come in to swell the divisable profits at the end of the current six months. The Union Bank of London, whose paid-up capital is also £600,000, have realized a clear profit upon the half-year's trading of £65,000, and have declared a dividend at the rate of 10 and a bonus at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, which will absorb £45,000. They carry over 15,000 to the reserve fund, having an unappropriated balance of nearly £7,500. The liabilities of this establishment to customers amount to £9.000,000, and their total assets, including a reserve fund of £150,000, to £9,863,000. Of this something under £7,000,000 is represented by the floating capital invested in loans, discounts, &c. They have upwards of a million and a half of cash in their own till and at the Bank of England at call, and more than a million invested in Consols (a large proportion of which was purchased at 87½, upon which an additional value has accrued consequent upon the increase of prices of from 10 to 12 per cent.)—Exchequer bills, bonds, and other similar securities convertible at any moment into cash, should an emergency requiring it arise; the best security against which, however, next to the excellent management which continues to distinguish this bank, is this ample preparation to meet it. Next in order comes the Commercial Bank of London, which exhibits as the result of the half-year a nett profit of between £11,000 and £12,000 upon a working capital of £300,000, and pays a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent.—a return which, however satisfactory in the early days of joint-stock banking, can scarcely come up to the hopes of its proprietors in these days of high profits. There is, however, no reason to doubt the inherent soundness of the Company, nor is there any ground for supposing that it will not in time increase in public confidence, and share in the better fortune of its neighbours. Turning to the City Bank, one of the very youngest of our metropolitan banking institutions, we have the extraordinary instance of a bank leaping, as it were, into the confidence of the monied and trading community at once. Though only three years established, they divide, and their accounts show, with ample justification, at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum. In this case the paid-up capital is £300,000; the liabilities to the public £1,250,000, which is a few thousands more than the amount they have floating in the ordinary

every-day business of banking; the rest being £222,000 in Government securities, and a reserve fund of £30,000, which is growing by the allocation of a portion of the undivided balances half-year by half-year. They have also cash in hand and at call to the extent of £116,000, and the value of their building and furniture is stated at £29,000. Thus it appears that at the end of three years the £300,000 which the shareholders in the City Bank have paid upon their shares is represented by real assets to the value of £380,000 in round numbers—a result for which the managers may well claim credit.

We have thus in the reports of all our joint-stock banks, whose periodical meetings took place in the past month, demonstrative evidence of the soundness of the system and of the healthy position in which these valuable and profitable institutions stand. That proof is afforded not so much by the high rate of dividend they pay, as by the inherent truth which the accounts presented on the authority of men of high authority in banking circles, and the explanations given by directors of undoubted honour, carry with them. And, satisfactory as the result must be to those who have invested capital in these concerns, it is of even greater consequence to the public. Nothing can be of more vital importance in a commercial community than that the depositories of that floating capital which are the sinews of trade, should be beyond suspicion. Wherever full security is given, custom will be certain to follow. It is a mistake to suppose that the business of banking is over-done. Notwithstanding the competition there is a wide field for extended operations, and past experience shows that in all cases where such operations are upon those principles of prudent liberality which are the very essence of safe banking, there will be ample remuneration for those who embark in this branch of enterprise.

PROSPECTS OF THE MONEY MARKET.

Complete stagnation appears to pervade the whole of the European and American money markets. With bullion in the coffers of the chief banking establishments, representing upwards of £57,000,000, there is almost general inactivity in commercial adventure and Stock Exchange speculation. The same features exhibited in the London and provincial markets are presented in the condition of Paris, Lyons, and the French manufacturing districts; while in New York and the other principal cities of the United States the absence of all animation is one of the most remarkable circumstances on record. Suffering severely, as the whole of these localities have been, from the effects of the panic of last year, France probably less than England or America, it was expected that some process of exhaustion would follow; but it was not supposed that the time of inactivity would have been of its present lengthened dura-

tion, even looking at the great sacrifices and losses then entailed. As yet it is scarcely to be supposed that we have arrived at a state of transition; for notwithstanding the accounts in some directions are rather more favourable, so heavy a blow has been given to confidence that it seems almost impossible to persuade the public that with capital ruling at the average value of 2½ per cent., there is any temptation to stimulate legitimate enterprise.

The loss occasioned by the railway mania, and the subsequent depreciation of share property through the unsuccessful development of traffic and the senseless and ruinous competition of directors, have not only afforded a useful lesson to those engaged in the particular speculation, but the traditions of the period—phases associated with which are every now and then brought forward—have served to prevent the succeeding generation from rushing into so extensive a speculation. The next event which foreshadowed national gambling was the gold discoveries of Australia and California; but although the amount absorbed in these ephemeral mining enterprises was limited to a few millions, the complete waste and fraudulent application of the funds subscribed further created a distaste to any connection with joint-stock undertakings. Some of the old promoters are probably sanguine enough to suppose that the resources of New Caledonia, which now occupy so much public attention, may be turned to account in this manner; but if any attempt on an unsound basis be made to traffic with the name of the Fraser River, or its supposed auriferous neighbourhood, a most determined resistance will be essayed.

But while Australian and Californian mining was thoroughly unproductive through organised companies, the yield of the gold fields by individual labour has been beyond all expectation, and the industry of the world has received an important impetus from an additional capital brought into play, with the extended credit raised upon its foundation. Notwithstanding the highly favourable prognostics uttered respecting the ultimate result of this accession of bullion, of the great good to be effected to business, and the lasting benefits which the mercantile community were to secure, the competition created and the unhealthy excitement occasioned have terminated in the periodical revulsion which, under the more glowing auspices of a change in this respect, was barely contemplated.

And now once more, while money, irrespective of the enormous remittances weekly and monthly made from Port Phillip and San Francisco, has gradually, during the last three or four years, been increasing in value—five, six, and even seven per cent. not having been an extraordinary rate, especially in the last two autumns—the crisis has ended, a plethora has ensued, the issue of which cannot be immediately divined. For the next month or six weeks the probabilities of the future course of the market will be regulated by the position of the weather and the appearance of the crops. At this particular juncture it may be premised that the prospects are highly favourable, and that the progress of agricultural operations is on the whole encou-

raging, and, therefore, with an abundant harvest, great relief will be obtained in the later season of the year. There are yet events which, nevertheless, may intervene to arrest the more satisfactory symptoms presented: and, if wet or stormy weather were to interpose, the supposed result must in a measure be compromised. The crops in America are viewed as in a forward condition, and if the accounts in the French journals, both of the probabilities of the harvest and the vintage, can be relied on, there is no reason to expect a deficiency.

If, then, the general harvest shall prove an average thoughout the Continent of Europe, and be equally plentiful in America, the future value of money may range at a moderate level. And this for two reasons. First, the year has now almost too far advanced to admit of any great activity in trade, even the most sanguine, considering that there is only an indefinite chance of an immediate return to prosperity; and, secondly, the indisposition to move out of the ordinary course, leaves small hope of any extended mania. That general animation may, nevertheless, arise, is not beyond the bound of probability, since if, after the crops shall have been housed, other approximating causes are favourable, a buoyancy may set in, which would give life and activity both to business in mercantile walks and at the Stock Exchange.

There is, however, one consideration that must be seriously estimated in judging of the comparative situation of financial relations at the present moment and at the close of 1858—viz., the amount of demands to be brought forward either on behalf of foreign governments or the nation itself. Looking at antecedent attempts recently to negociate foreign loans, the slight share of success which has attended these transactions will not induce contractors to engage in such operations. It is possible that some £3,000,000 or £4,000,000 may be required for the improvement of the metropolitan drainage, but not directly; and Turkey, if the authorities can explain the recent conduct at Jeddah, will perhaps seek supplies to the amount of £4,000,000 or £5,000,000, while it is certain that Russia, if by hook or by crook any aid can be gained, will only be too glad to develope the grand railway scheme which has temporarily remained dormant until more fortunate times.

If, therefore, operations of this character should be introduced, they will not create a large absorption, but, with revived activity in trade, will occasion sufficient pressure to carry the rate, before the end of the year, to five if not six per cent. Under the most encouraging appearances, the existing Bank rate of 3 per cent. must, it is generally regarded, be considered the lowest during 1858, unless coöperative circumstances shall produce such an effect as to alter the whole aspect of trading and monetary affairs.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to Thursday, July 8 :—

DEBTOR.	F.	C.
Capital of the Bank	91,250,000	0
Ditto, New	91,250,000	0
Profits in addition to capital (Art. 8, Law of June 9, 1857)	1,513,467	77
Reserve of the Bank	12,980,759	14
New reserve	9,125,000	0
Ditto in landed property...	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	592,145,100	0
Ditto of the branch banks	40,792,675	0
Bank notes to order	6,286,429	19
Receipts payable at sight	4,447,730	0
Treasury account-current, creditor	108,688,133	30
Sundry accounts-current...	141,516,745	27
Do. with the branch banks	28,177,075	0
Dividends payable	6,583,659	25
Discounts and sundry interests	5,894,806	25
Commission on deposits ...	1,026,427	20
Re-discounted during the last six months	1,066,532	18
Sundries	1,883,573	88
F.	1,148,131,546	79

CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand	232,785,328	96
Cash in the branch banks	295,171.656	0
Commercial bills overdue	390,729	2
Do. discounted, but not due	182,648,212	47
Ditto in the branch banks	210,856,929	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	1,250,800	0
Do. by the branch banks	1,810,000	0
Do. on French public securities	29,007,800	0
Do. by the branch banks	9,426,800	0
Do. on railway securities	89,125.695	86
Do. by the branch banks	19,602,050	0
Do. on Crédit Foncier scrip	326,700	0
Do. on branch banks scrip	120,100	0
Do. to the State on agreement of June 30, 1848...	45,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	12,980,750	14
Ditto disposable	52,188,103	58
New shares, not settled ..	1,026,850	0
Hotel & furniture of the Bk.	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	5,939,768	0
Expenses of the Bank.....	133,059	45
Sundries.....	4,340,214	60
F.	1,148,131,546	79

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, DE GERMINY.

The above return shows a further specie increase of £700,000, the stock held having reached the extraordinary total of £21,120,000, although it has failed to remove or even mitigate the public distrust generated by other causes. The general figures exhibit an increase of £1,900,000 in the note issue, and of £1,760,000 in the discounts. There has been a decrease in the treasury deposits of £160,000, and in those of the public of £360,000. The advances on rentes have experienced an augmentation of £200,000, but those on shares show a reduction of £320,000.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade Returns for the month of May were issued on the 24th June, and again show a heavy falling off in the declared value of our exportations, the difference, as compared with the corresponding month of the past year, being £1,117,556. The heaviest reduction has been in woollen goods and metals, especially iron, chiefly from the stagnation of the American and colonial trade. Cottons have been rather largely taken, owing to the better character of the Eastern

demand; but the large majority of articles are on the unfavourable side, and the return indicates that the opinions occasionally expressed that some general revival of activity was taking place were unfounded. It is satisfactory, however, to believe that such transactions as are entered upon are legitimate, and, for the most part, productive of profits. The annexed table presents the exact increase or decrease under each head:—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Months ending May 31, 1857, and May 31, 1858.	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.
Apparel and slops	£183,031	£177,982	—	£5,049
Beer and ale	129,740	227,111	£97,371	—
Books	37,428	33,628	—	3,800
Butter	29,935	34,135	4,200	—
Candles	27,627	15,109	—	12,518
Cheese	9,313	8,292	—	1,021
Coals and culm	302,634	316,219	13,585	—
Cordage	16,399	16,689	290	—
Cottons	2,916,951	2,983,354	66,403	—
Cotton yarn	770,818	819,547	48,729	—
Earthenware	131,866	95,511	—	36,355
Fish	7,348	5,072	—	2,276
Furniture	30,740	27,833	—	2,907
Glass	58,497	49,957	—	8,540
Haberdashery	332,977	265,265	—	67,712
Hardwares	354,489	280,974	—	73,515
Leather	234,093	159,170	—	74,923
Linens	388,735	272,830	—	115,905
Linen yarn	152,640	148,741	—	3,899
Machinery	387,376	466,888	79,512	—
Iron and steel	1,447,757	1,166,779	—	280,978
Copper and brass	255,142	191,347	—	63,795
Lead	87,610	58,902	—	28,708
Tin	182,223	170,956	—	11,267
Oil seed	57,758	92,483	34,725	—
Painters' colours	43,747	32,409	—	11,338
Pickles and sauces	30,035	24,978	—	5,057
Plate and jewellery	43,609	36,655	—	6,954
Salt	45,210	36,393	—	8,817
Silks	257,976	169,555	—	88,421
Soap	25,196	18,064	—	7,132
Soda	74,419	66,222	—	8,197
Spirits	83,238	13,611	—	69,627
Stationery	65,017	62,774	—	2,243
Sugar, refined	55,144	16,290	—	38,854
Wool	57,697	40,083	—	17,614
Woollens	1,020,593	698,446	—	332,147
Woollen Yarn	241,006	251,160	10,154	—
Unenumerated articles	806,190	713,234	—	92,956
Total	11,382,204	10,264,648		

The total of our exports for the first five months of the year has been £43,226,371, showing a decrease of £6,969,170, or nearly 15 per cent. The decline each month has been in the following proportions:—

	Decrease.
January	£1,836,505
February	2,024,624
March	1,456,074
April	534,411
May	1,117,556

As compared with the corresponding five months of 1856, the reduction has been only £80,958.

With regard to imported commodities, a large increase in the arrivals of wheat, flour, and other grain is the chief feature. The supplies of tea have been considerable, and there has also been an increase in the quantity taken into use. The consumption of cocoa, tobacco, fruits, and spices likewise shows an augmentation, while in that of coffee, sugar, wines, and spirits, there has again been a falling off.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption :—

Months ending May 31, 1857, and May 31, 1858.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Grain, wheat, qrs.	196,279	503,567	196,279	503,567
Grain of other descriptions, qrs.	350,464	472,320	350,464	472,320
Indian corn, qrs....	102,504	170,719	102,504	170,719
Flour and meal, cwt.	189,362	416,276	189,362	416,276
Provisions—Bacon, &c. &c., cwt.	140,559	83,724	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt.	69,739	75,193	67,908	75,508
Animals, No.	12,510	9,364	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	15,758,800	16,041,400	15,759,200	16,041,400
Cocoa, lb.	1,232,763	1,091,852	221,460	290,835
Coffee, lb.	2,279,894	6,593,262	2,910,163	2,772,665
Sugar, cwt.	489,004	769,406	743,802	700,065
Tea, lb....	3,149,595	5,392,779	5,383,535	5,802,243
Rice, cwt.	217,773	388,084	111,715	161,770
Spirits, gallons	754,934	668,852	352,997	322,570
Wines, gallons	1,062,204	454,671	615,918	592,163
Tobacco, lb.	1,539,884	2,693,900	2,650,032	2,733,046
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt...	16,249	22,238	21,509	34,274
Lemons and oranges, bushels ...	57,587	68,949	57,351	75,099
Spices, lb.	207,511	1,006,097	286,626	288,623
Ditto, cwt.	1,878	9,299	931	1,799

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing a decrease in all descriptions, except flax and cotton:

Months ending May 31, 1857, and May 31, 1858.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Flax, cwt.	51,274	70,892	—	—
Hemp, cwt	125,340	80,533	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	752,474	437,372	113,942	165,233
Cotton, cwt....	917,872	1,376,912	188,558	161,093
Wool, lb.	16,589,582	15,492,796	6,706,800	3,739,509
Tallow, cwt.	71,518	36,429	1,781	233

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Months ending May 31, 1857, and May 31, 1858	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	48,984	60,169	46,484	60,036
Ditto of India, pieces	15,367	7,557	6,675	5,252

THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE BANK ACTS.

THE Select Committee appointed to inquire into the operation of the Bank Act of 1844, and of the Bank Acts for Ireland and Scotland of 1845, and who were also instructed to investigate the causes of the recent commercial distress, especially how far it was affected by the laws regulating the issue of bank notes payable on demand, have just published their report. They state that since 1847 three circumstances have materially affected the question at issue—viz., the unprecedented extension of foreign trade, the extraordinary importation of gold and silver, and the remarkable development of the economy afforded by the practice of banking for the use and distribution of capital. The committee, after having heard extended evidence, arrive at the following conclusions :—That the present law ensures the maintenance in the coffers of the Bank of an adequate amount of bullion, whilst the history of past years proves that such an amount had not been maintained by the unassisted wisdom and firmness of the Bank directors; that while, on the one hand, the great increase of retail transactions has caused an increased demand for the smaller notes, concurrently with the increased demand for gold, yet, on the other hand, so great has been the effect of increasing facilities in banking, that a saving of a corresponding amount has been effected in the larger notes, the effect, indeed, being so great that, notwithstanding the great expansion of trade, the whole amount of Bank notes has actually diminished since 1844, and under the present law, still continues gradually to decline ; and that consequently there is no cognisable advantage to be obtained by the commercial interest from the power of increasing the amount of notes which may be issued without the deposit of bullion. On the question whether the law should be left, subject only to that power which was contemplated by Sir R. Peel and Mr. Huskisson, or whether, on the other hand, provision should be made in advance for such contingencies, and the conditions expressly laid down on which the issue of an increased number of bank notes may in the time of pressure be allowed, the committee give it as their opinion that this important and difficult subject may properly await the decision of the Legislature when the other branches of the subject shall again be dealt with. The committee also consider that the subject of the issue of small notes in Scotland and Ireland, and of private issues generally in the United Kingdom, shall be reserved without prejudice for the future consideration of Parliament.

Incidentally the committee remark, that there is no reason why antiquated restrictions peculiar to Ireland should be preserved. Among other questions which the committee deem it advisable that Parliament shall take into consideration, is also the point whether a bank of issue which suspends its payments, even for the shortest time, shall lose the privilege of issue. The inference to be drawn from the report is that no mischief will result from a temporary continuance of the Bank Charter Act, subject to a notice of twelve months, which may at any time be given by the House of Commons through the Speaker; that the recent commercial crisis was mainly owing to excessive speculation and abuse of credit; and finally, that in the time of pressure, the houses which deserved assistance received it from the Bank of England, in a manner in which that establishment would not have been able to give it except for the bullion retained in their coffers.

Expressly alluding to the subject of the late crisis, it is remarked :—

"Your committee have stated the reasons by which it is established to their satisfaction that the recent commercial crisis in this country, as well as in America and in the north of Europe, was mainly owing to excessive speculation and abuse of credit; and also that in the time of pressure the houses which deserved assistance received it from the Bank of England in a manner in which that establishment would not have been able to give it except for the bullion retained in their coffers; and your committee are satisfied to leave in the discretion of the executive government the time and prudent opportunity of giving further effect to those principles by which the convertibility of the Bank of England note has been kept above suspicion."

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. ROSS, MITCHELL AND CO.

An adjourned meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Ross, Mitchell and Co. was held at the Guildhall Coffee-house, on the 29th June.

A strong feeling was generally expressed against the mode in which the house have conducted their affairs, especially since this is the second occasion on which they have been compelled to seek the indulgence of their creditors. In addition, also, to the doubtful nature of the assets, which it is proposed shall be transferred for the benefit of British claimants, the opinions expressed with regard to the state of the Canadian law were of importance, as conveying to the traders in those provinces the sentiments of the manufacturing interest concerning the system of preferences so extensively followed out. The chairman was Mr. Price, of the firm of Messrs. Price, Coker and Co.; and among those who took a very prominent part in the proceedings were, Mr. Dillon, of Messrs. Morrison, Dillon and Co.; Mr. Morley, of Messrs. Morley and Co.; Mr. Foster, of Messrs. Foster, Porter and Co.; Mr. Greatorex, and the representatives of the Western Bank of Scotland and the City of Glasgow Bank. Several legal gentlemen were in attendance to advise with the creditors on the best course to be pursued, the principal being Mr. Reed, of Messrs. Reed, Langford and Marsden, and Mr. Murray, of Messrs. Murray, Son, and Hutchings. In accordance with the arrangements previously made, the committee appointed to superintend the original liquidation, prepared a report, which was now

brought forward by Mr. H. Chatteris, the accountant. That document was as follows:—

"London, June 29, 1858.

"Gentlemen,—The committee nominated by the creditors to inspect the books and affairs of Ross, Mitchell and Co. until they paid their creditors 20*s.* in the pound and interest, have called you together to make known to you that this firm informs them that it is no longer in a position to pay 20*s.* in the pound. The communication was made to them in a letter dated Toronto, June 5, 1858, and the purport is an offer of 11*s.* 6*d.* in the pound at one, two, three, and four years. The accounts upon which the offer of 11*s.* 6*d.* in the pound is based, are as follows:—

Statement of Affairs in London, June 22, and in Toronto, as on May 15, 1858.

To creditors in Great Britain, viz.—			
On promissory notes	£320,846 13 8		
On open accounts	12,113 5 2		
	£332,959 18 10		
Less amount to be provided for by other parties	79,631 0 0		
		£253,328	18 10
To creditors in Canada unsecured		12,889	9 6
Ditto, secured	£143,233 15 2		
Value of securities held	199,462 17 4		
Surplus to contra...	£56,229 2 2		
To Alexander Mitchell, of Manchester Claims to have an assignment of Murray and Co.'s debt to the extent of	£10,281 17 0 10,000 0 0	281	17 0
		£266,500	5 4
By freehold property in Renfrew and Castleton, cost	£12,300 0 0		
Mortgaged for	4,000 0 0		
Estimated of no value	£8,300 0 0		
By premises in Toronto—estimated value	£6,480 0 0		
Less mortgage thereon	4,000 0 0	2,480	0 0
By John Ross and Co., Melbourne ...	£36,429 12 5		
Estimated to produce		6,000	0 0
Whan, McLean, and Co		2,607	18 9
A. Murray and Co.	17,392 0 0		
Less claimed by A. Mitchell ...	10,000 0 0	7,392	0 0
By cash in hand		1,210	0 0
Bills receivable...		5,638	18 11
Ditto, L. Atterbury and Co.	12,060 0 0		
Estimated at 1*s.* 3*d.* per pound		753	15 0

ASSETS IN CANADA.

By debts, mortgages and bills receivable, the realisation of which is undoubted...	£90,149	16	0		
Ditto, which will be paid with time...	156,131	3	6		
Ditto, which may be good after a long and doubtful period	52,168	15	9		
	£298,449	15	3		
Less in the hands of secured creditors ...	199,462	17	4		
				98,986	17 11
Less stock in trade				29,361	16 10
Less cash in hand				232	11 10
Less surplus securities in hands of creditors				56,229	2 2
Or 15*s.* 10*d.* in the £				210,893	1 5
Less deficiency				55,607	3 11
				£266,500	5 4

"It will be perceived by this statement that the assets are sufficient to pay 15*s.* 10*d.* in the pound, even assuming that the claim set up by Mr. Alexander Mitchell is a just one. If the asset to which he lays claim should be found available for distribution amongst the general body of creditors, it would make the assets sufficient to yield 16*s.* in the pound. The committee think it right to leave Messrs. Ross, Mitchell, and Co. to explain to their creditors the principle upon which they make the offer of 11*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. The committee have endeavoured, since the date of their appointment, to prevent any creditors obtaining preference over the general body; but so far as the Canadian creditors are concerned, their efforts have been of no avail. The statement now prepared shows that, with a trifling exception, the whole of the Canadian creditors are secured; and that, if no preferences existed, the assets would be sufficient to pay all the creditors a dividend of 17*s.* 4*d.* in the pound. Apart from the question as to whether this meeting shall accept the offer now made to them by Messrs. Ross, Mitchell and Co., or any other offer of composition, the committee are of opinion that this meeting should express its disapproval of the state of the law which enables a trading firm in Canada to divide its creditors into classes, and to prefer out of the common assets any creditors whom it may choose to favour.

"Signed by order of the Committee,

"HENRY CHATTERIS, Accountant."

The discussion, which was of a diffuse and irregular character, tended at first in the direction of the causes for the depreciation of the assets. The two principal items were the debt due from Messrs. John Ross and Co., of Melbourne, and the large amount deducted for bad claims in Canada. The difference in the value of the freehold property in Renfrew and Castleton likewise excited comment, it having been before placed at a favourable price, while it is now stated to be unsaleable. These discrepancies, it was considered, required full explanation, apart from the objectionable nature of the proposal for composition, and the manner in which it was suggested it should be completed. With respect to the preferences to the Canadian creditors, that was a question which it was thought could be dealt with at a later stage of the proceedings, when explanations from the confidential *employé* of Messrs. Ross, Mitchell, and

Co. were obtained. In reply to questions, Mr. Chatteris stated that the offer of composition was 11*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, leaving the firm to wind up the estate by instalments of 2*s.* 6*d.* on the 1st February, 1859, and subsequent payments of 3*s.* at the same date in 1860, 1861, and 1862, the chief assets consisting of debts, mortgages, and bills. Not until after February in the present year were the committee aware that the creditors in Canada were preferred in any shape, and then only to a limited extent, the statement invariably being that ample assets existed to pay 20*s.* in the pound. The fact that claims to the extent of £200,000 had been so arranged did not transpire before the latest accounts were received. In the case of the consignments to Australia it appeared that a person had been sent out to look into the books, but he having died on his voyage home no accurate statement could be secured. There were some letters from him showing that the goods had been disposed of at depreciated prices, but it was supposed that he intended his explanations should be verbal. The details of the deficiency, placed at £112,900, including the surplus at first estimated of £57,000, and the adverse balance of £55,000, presented by the latest figures, was accounted for in the following manner:—£18,000 over-due interest on promissory notes; expenses and drawings of the partners since suspension, £3,280; Renfrew property, formerly placed at £8,300, now valueless; loss on the Melbourne account of Messrs. J. Ross and Co., £30,429; loss by L. Atterbury and Co., £11,307; bad debts written off, £42,900, &c. Although the account exhibited 15*s.* 10*d.* in the pound, it was considered essential to make deductions on some classes of the debts to the extent of 12½ and 25 per cent., which, being equal to £36,228, left a balance which would pay a dividend of 13*s.* 1½*d.*; but the partners, presuming that a further allowance should be made for contingencies, proposed the 11*s.* 6*d.* as stated. It was intimated that there had been no reason to suspect that the accounts were wrong, because, after the figures presented in October, a balance-sheet received in January not only confirmed the original position, but increased the surplus to the extent of £1,500. Mr. Ross, it was stated, had gone out at the instance of the committee, with the view of preparing for the July payment; and the reason for Mr. Fisken, the partner, not returning to this country, but sending the principal clerk instead, was alleged to be fear of arrest. Mr. Mitchell remains in this country, and his attendance could be secured, if it were considered desirable; but it was believed that Mr. Snelling, the party deputed, and who was also a lawyer, could afford more information, particularly respecting the Canadian establishment. The arrangement concluded with the English creditors was for payment in two years, by four instalments, and that with the Canadian creditors in three years; the dates being April and October, whereas the others were July and January. Although instructions were sent out that the Canadian creditors were not to be paid unless the partners saw their way clear to satisfy the English dividend in July, the injunction received no attention, and the first instalment had been discharged, "and," thus observed one of the creditors, "we were let into a trap." After some conversation, it was agreed that Mr. Snelling should be introduced to tender an explanation of the serious difference in the appearance of the accounts, and state the ground on which the partners made the offer of 11*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, when, at the lowest computation, the assets showed 13*s.* 1*d.* Mr. Snelling, without any lengthened prelude, entered into an elaborate narrative of the position of the house. He asserted that the great discrepancy apparent arose from the London balance-sheet having been founded on a statement of the Toronto business in the early part of the year, unaccompanied by

accurate knowledge of the prospective condition of business, which could only be ascertained when the new season commenced. When the roads became opened, and sleighing began, that was the period for the arrival of their customers, who then settled accounts, paid, or obtained an extension of time. On the late occasion, and after the first accounts had been prepared, it was discovered that the amount of indebtedness was enormous, without corresponding means to meet it. The traders were consequently obliged to announce their inability to pay, to give mortgages of their property, and to seek increased time, while, in many cases, the debts were altogether bad. These unfavourable circumstances had so altered the appearance of the assets, that, instead of the surplus anticipated, a deficiency was immediately manifested. The nature of the business of the provinces was such that it was impossible to arrive at accurate results until the season turned, when these accounts were adjusted. The prospects being discouraging, and doubts being still yet entertained of the ultimate realisation of some of the accounts, the firm considered that they would not be justified in proposing more than 11*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, contingencies having to be provided for. The alleged preferences to creditors in Canada, he appeared to think, had constituted a subject of unnecessary complaint, inasmuch as he contended that the course pursued had in a measure protected the property for the parties interested in this country. The banks, having received from time to time collateral securities from Messrs. Ross, Mitchell and Co., could have taken proceedings against the customers, and thus effectually denuded the estate. The amount of £199,000, which was the aggregate secured to the Bank of Montreal, the City Bank of Montreal, and the Bank of Toronto, comprised the principal, and these arrangements had been progressing from about the 25th of October. The firm in Canada possessed no knowledge than that the house in London had stopped, but they had reason to believe that embarrassments existed, because remittances were not going forward in a regular manner. The effect of the crisis in New York had been experienced, and as it was speedily developed in the Canadas, the banks who held past-due notes would have proceeded, had not these arrangements been agreed to. He had advised the London firm, every mail, of the progress of the deposits made with these institutions; but it appeared that, although the resident partner received them, he neglected to inform the committee of their contents. Mr. Morley and some of the other creditors said that this was most disgraceful, and that it was evident, from these mortgages and other settlements, a great injustice had been committed against the English claimants. In defence of the conduct of the firm, Mr. Snelling gave a most graphic description of the excitement that ensued when the ravages of the panic became apparent. Great depression existed in January, but it was succeeded by an alarming sacrifice of property in February, March, and April. Horses, cattle, and land sold at a fearful depreciation, special descriptions not being able to find buyers; the local courts were inundated with cases, and although those which were litigated were numerous, a great number were settled with only a preliminary recourse to law. It was in consequence of this state of things that the general assets had become impoverished, and he regretted to learn that the proposal was not likely to be well received. From having ascertained the feeling of the creditors, he had since consulted with Mr. Mitchell, and he was authorised to submit amended terms—say, a total dividend of 12*s.* 6*d.* in the pound; the first payment to be 3*s.* 6*d.* in March, 1859, and three other payments of 3*s.* each in succeeding years, to make up the amount, the extension of a month being asked to allow for the benefit to be derived

from the sleighing season to facilitate collections. Mr. Snelling having withdrawn, an animated debate followed; Mr. Morley, Mr. Dillon and others, loudly censuring the conduct of the firm. Mr. Greatorex said that, although a considerable creditor, he was prepared to waive the question of dividend, if any recommendation could be made to stigmatise such a state of things. The conduct of Messrs. Ross, Mitchell and Co. had been most discreditable, and their mode of transacting business in the Canadas was open to severe reprehension. Mr. Morley intimated that he was quite sure, from what he knew was passing in this particular branch of trade, that further losses would be experienced, unless great caution was exercised in giving credit. He was averse to individuals of this description receiving any countenance, the more so through the preferences given to the Canadian creditors. Mr. Reed and Mr. Murray both considered that the form of deed should be looked to which gave the powers asked, and that if the question of composition were entertained a committee should be appointed to investigate the security, &c. The representative of the liquidators of the Western Bank of Scotland, who are creditors to the extent of £100,000, while repudiating any notion of justifying the proceedings of Messrs. Ross, Mitchell and Co., impressed upon the meeting the desirableness of accepting 12*s.* 6*d.* in the pound; the accountant of the bank, who had visited New York, had also gone to Toronto and investigated the books, and his outside estimate was 14*s.* in the pound. Bankruptcy would scatter the estate, and leave only a limited distribution. Mr. Morley questioned whether any dividend could be secured, and Mr. Foster said he was not inclined to accept less than the statement showed, viz., 13*s.* The representative of the City of Glasgow Bank and the Glasgow creditors, whose debts reached £70,000, supported the views urged by the liquidators of the Western Bank of Scotland. The question of the imperative necessity of an assignment was now mooted, and it was received with favour. Others advocated a composition of 13*s.* in the pound, in five half-yearly instalments, but the bulk of creditors, as represented by the Western Bank and the Bank of Glasgow, were inclined to adopt the proposal of 12*s.* 6*d.* Mr. Morley said little sympathy should be shown to the Western Bank of Scotland; the directors had encouraged over-trading to an alarming extent, and, mixed up with Messrs. Ross, Mitchell and Co., were the notorious names of Macdonald and Co., Monteith and Co., and others, whose accommodation transactions had created great mischief in trade. Mr. Greatorex was against any plan which would suffer the firm to re-enter business. The present case was only a repetition of what formerly occurred in 1847; they then failed for a large amount, and promised a full dividend, which was not forthcoming; and now, after pretending to suspend with a surplus, a large deficiency was the actual result. The course they pursued in Canada was ruin to the trade of the country, and the sooner they were cleared from the field the better it would be for more scrupulous and disinterested merchants. The very fact of securing the banks was to get themselves into credit again. The Chairman advised circumspection; he should know what to do if they required credit of him; but he was not prepared to cast altogether aside the prospect of a dividend. After a long debate, it was agreed to accept a composition in the modified form proposed in the following resolution, and the opinion of the meeting was recorded against the practice of allowing preferences in Canada. A petition to the Legislative Assembly was signed in the room, to be forwarded to Toronto, requesting a repeal of the law which sanctioned such invidious distinctions between the creditors resident in England and Canada:—

"It was ultimately resolved to accept a compensation of 12*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, at dates to be agreed upon by a committee of five creditors, who were also empowered to decide as to the nature and the extent of the securities to be given for the payment of the said condition."

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. BRISTOW, WARREN AND HARRISON.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Bristow, Warren and Harrison, who failed in the wholesale grocery trade at the end of June, was held on the 2nd of July. The subjoined accounts, prepared by Messrs. Coleman, Turquand, Youngs and Co., exhibit a dividend of about 15*s.* in the pound, but the stock has yet to be realised, and the debt collections may not turn out so well as estimated. A heavy depreciation has occurred in the stock of sugar, and other losses have been considerable; but the partners, it transpired, commenced with a capital of upwards of £3,000. At the close of the meeting, the firm leaving themselves entirely in the hands of their creditors, a committee of six—including Mr. C. Coles, of Messrs. B. and J. Coles; Mr. R. A. Boyd, of Messrs. Goodby and Co.; Mr. N. Martineau, of Messrs. Martineau and Co.; Mr. Harrison, of Messrs. Harrison and Wilson; and Mr. J. Redpath, of Messrs. Wackerbath and Co.—was appointed to look into the estate, and report on a future occasion the best course that can be recommended for carrying out a liquidation.

STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS OF MESSRS. BRISTOW, WARREN AND HARRISON, June 26, 1858.

Dr.

To creditors on open accounts—			
Trade	£29,334 0 5		
Cash	1,387 0 0		
To ditto on bills payable	14,161 6 5		
		£44,882	6 10
To creditors partially secured—			
Claims	£14,264 14 3		
Security held	9,949 0 10		
		4,315	13 5
To liability on contracts for purchase of goods of which we have not taken delivery, estimated at		365	17 6
To liabilities on bills payable, which will be retired by the drawers	£590 8 6		
To liabilities on bills receivable ...	23,500 12 8		
the whole of which are expected to be duly met at maturity.			
		£49,563	17 9

Cr.

By cash balance at bankers'		£796	9 6
Bill receivable on hand		173	6 10
Debtors, good	£32,809 12 0		
Doubtful £3,421 14 4			
Estimated at 10*s.*			
in the pound... 1,710 17 2			
	1,710 17 2		
Carried forward		34,520	9 2

				Brought forward ...			£34,520	9 2
		£1,710	17 2					
Ditto, bad	...	243	13 9					
Carried to losses	...	£1,954	10 2					
By stock, viz. :—								
In warehouse ...	...	...	...	£1,233	2 11			
Docks, wharves, &c.	...	...	...	2,787	0 5			
							4,020	3 4
By lease of premises in Rood-lane, cost				...	...		300	0 0
Office furniture and trade utensils, estimated at					...		50	0 0
							£39,860	8 10
Deduct sundries to be paid in full			...	£214	8 8			
Estimated expenses of liquidation and allowance for realisation of debts			...	1,500	0 0			
							1,714	8 8
							£38,146	0 2

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. SKEEN AND FREEMAN.

The failure of Messrs. Skeen and Freeman, timber brokers, which took place on the 30th June, proves to have been more disastrous in its results than was generally anticipated. Not only has their suspension shown that their own resources had become completely exhausted, but it is quite clear that through their bill transactions they have involved other individuals. Among several who found themselves placed in difficulty through this state of things, are, Mr. E. A. Skeen and Mr. C. Snewin, both of whom were seriously compromised, and will have to surrender their estates to their creditors. In the former case it is feared the assets will not prove considerable, but in the latter there are expectations of from 12*s.* to 15*s.* in the pound being realised, though a great deal will depend upon the extent of litigation. The circumstances of the stoppage indicate a reckless course of trading, but the principal responsibility rested upon the junior partner, who, in these days of competition, was intrusted with the finance department, and had committed a variety of irregularities with respect to warrants, cash advances, &c., illustrating the desperate straits to which he was driven to support the position of the firm. The senior partner had, it was represented, not exercised sufficient control, and having been engaged at the waterside in the practical pursuit of the business, was not fully acquainted with the whole proceedings. So discreditable were some of the transactions, that under the estate of Messrs. J. Lilley and Co., of the East and West India Docks, who were recently made bankrupts, the funds which arose from the sale of stock, and which, in regular course, should have passed to the official assignee, were retained and absorbed by Messrs. Skeen and Freeman. Other operations of an equally discouraging character were disclosed, and the attendant risk was proportionate. A meeting of the creditors took place on the 2nd July, at which the following statement was presented, exhibiting debts and liabilities amounting to £33,690, and assets of £6,237; but as the representatives of the press were excluded, no authenticated

abstract of the discussion can be furnished. The property set forth showed a dividend of about 3*s.* 8*d.* in the pound, but this amount will not be secured through a private arrangement or an appeal to bankruptcy. So dissatisfied were the creditors with the explanations furnished by the accountant and the partners, that after a lengthened discussion it was agreed that a declaration of insolvency should be signed, and that the firm should be forthwith placed in the *Gazette*. The old plea of the avoidance of bankruptcy on account of the expense was not listened to in this case, because it was felt from the nice legal points and other difficulties, that a public investigation is essential.

STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS OF MESSRS. SKEEN AND FREEMAN, of No. 75, Old Broad-street, June 28, 1858,

Dr.

To creditors unsecured—			
Open account	£12,463 17 6		
With acceptances	8,928 10 2		
		£21,392	7 8
To creditors, with security—			
Value of securities—			
Bills of Exchange	£2,180 4 11		
Goods	13,901 0 0		
Debt with documents	1,134 1 7		
	£17,215 12 6		
Amount of claims	16,919 7 7		
Surplus per contra	£296 4 11		
To liabilities—			
On bills receivable	£48,614 19 0		
Of which amount will rank on this estate		£12,298	11 0
To creditors, viz.—			
To be paid in full	100 0 0		
		£33,690	18 8

Cr.

By debtors—			
Good	£4,671 7 6		
Doubtful, £455 1*s.* 8*d.*, estimated ...	80 0 0		
	£4,751 7 6		
Less creditors to be paid in full ...	100 0 0		
		£4,651	7 6
By bills receivable	£1,161 17 3		
Valued at		250	0 0
By property available to estate		1,040	0 0
By surplus securities, per contra		296	4 11
		£6,237	12 5

Legal Miscellany.

IN RE THE JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES WINDING-UP ACTS 1848 AND 1849, AND IN RE THE LONDON AND EASTERN BANKING CORPORATION.

On the 30th June Mr. Daniel and Mr. Bagley, appeared before Vice-Chancellor Sir W. P. Wood, in support of a summons which had originally been taken out in chambers on the part of Messrs. Thomson and Bell, the assignees of the estate of the above company, to take into consideration the order of the Lord Chancellor of the 29th of May last, and to obtain the directions of his Honour (the Vice-Chancellor) as to the course of proceeding to be taken by the assignees for the purpose of "co-operating" with the official managers in winding-up the affairs of the company. The order made by the Lord Chancellor, as will be remembered, was an order restraining the assignees in bankruptcy of the company from using the proceedings in bankruptcy in any other manner than in their character of creditors' representatives for the purpose of co-operating in the winding-up of the affairs of the company by the official managers. The learned counsel called the attention of the Court to the third section of the Joint-Stock Companies Winding-up Amendment Act, 1857, and submitted a paper of suggestions as to the course which should be adopted for facilitating the co-operation spoken of in the order. The assignees desired to have information on the following points under the direction of the Court—namely, as to the accounts between the London and Eastern Bank and the Oriental Bank up to March, 1857, when the company ceased to carry on business; the state of the assets of the company when they so ceased to carry on business; an account of the assets remaining to be realised; a list of the contributories, and access to the books. The difficulty the assignees had to contend with was this,—that whenever, with a view of protecting the creditors as their representatives, they sought for information, they were looked upon as being meddlesome and officious.

Mr. Rolt (who, with Mr. Roxburgh, appeared for the official managers) submitted that it was mere waste of time to discuss these several particulars in Court, and that the "consideration" of the order of the Lord Chancellor would be more proper and convenient in chambers between the solicitors, who were much more competent than counsel to deal with these matters of detail. His instructions were that the official managers and assignees had hitherto gone on together in the most perfect harmony, and being so instructed, and there being no evidence adduced on either side, he must deprecate, on the part of his clients, the tone of complaint with which this matter had been submitted to the Court by his learned friend. It was more than probable that the creditors of the bank would be paid 20*s.* in the pound, but it was certainly not the way to increase the funds by applications to his Honour in Court on subjects such as these. The accounts between the company and the Oriental Bank had been fully taken, and, no doubt, proper arrangement would be made for the inspection of them by the assignees, and also for access to the books.

After some further discussion, in the course of which his Honour observed that it was most desirable to save any unnecessary expense in this more than usually expensive litigation, the following order was made:—

Let the summons stand over, the assignees to hand over to the official managers their requisitions, and, if necessary, the summons then to be brought on again.

The 7th of July was appointed, before Mr. Commissioner Fane, for the last examination in this case at the Bankruptcy Court, but no accounts had been filed; in fact, no addition has been made to the proceedings since the last meeting, when Mr. Thompson, the public officer of the Agra Bank, was chosen official assignee.

Mr. Peachey, who appeared for the official manager under the winding-up in Chancery, said that Messrs. Tatham, the solicitors to the bank, had written to him some weeks ago, stating that they intended to take no steps after the choice of assignees. He believed that all parties were acting in concert to let the proceedings drop.

Mr. Whitehead, the registrar, suggested that some accounts might be required.

Mr. Peachey—We consider that we have got all we require. The order of the Lord Chancellor, which is filed with the proceedings, restrains the assignees from acting in any other way than as creditors' representatives; and the former creditors' representative was chosen trade assignee. So we are all going on together now in the Court of Chancery.

The Commissioner—What is to happen with regard to this meeting?

Mr. Peachey—All proceedings are stayed by the order of the Lord Chancellor. I am only here because I saw the notice in the newspapers.

The Commissioner—It is rather difficult to know to what extent his order goes.

The Registrar—It prevents this Court dealing with the assets. That is the real effect of it.

Mr. Peachey suggested that the meeting should be allowed to drop. As no one had been ordered to surrender, there could not be an adjournment.

His Honour said as the case was that of Mr. Commissioner Evans, he would allow it to stand over until that learned commissioner returned. He would therefore direct an adjournment until the 23rd of September.

THE DARTFORD AND GRAVESEND BANK.—IN RE ROBT. HILLS.

In the Court of Bankruptcy on the 28th June, Robert Hills, who was a banker at Dartford and Gravesend, appeared before Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque, upon his adjourned examination. Mr. Plews appeared for the assignees, and Mr. Linklater and Mr. Wright for creditors.

Mr. Plews presented an affidavit from Mr. Russell, solicitor, of Dartford, praying the Court to declare that he was entitled to hold certain bills of exchange as equitable mortgage against £400 which was due to him from the estate.

The Court declined to make any order, having considerable doubts whether Mr. Russell had a general lien on the bills.

Mr. Plews next applied that the parties who had opposed at the last sitting should pay the costs consequent thereon, as also of the present sitting.

His Honour—No. The case evidently required some vigilance. I will determine hereafter whether the creditors who thus opposed shall be allowed their costs.

Mr. Hilleary, for the bankrupt, asked for an allowance since the last sitting. The bankrupt had a wife and seven children, and he had been kept in continual expectation of having to undergo further examination and opposition.

His Honour—Do you complain, on his behalf, that you have been treated too mildly? (A laugh.) Having regard to the figures disclosed, I cannot accede to the application.

The bankrupt then passed, and October the 19th was appointed for the certificate meeting.

EXTENSIVE FORGERIES ON THE LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.

Layton Ashton, aged 31, was indicted before the Recorder at the Central Criminal Court, on the 5th July, with having forged and uttered cheques for large amounts, with intent to defraud Joseph Esdaile, the public officer of the London and Westminster Bank. The prisoner pleaded "Not Guilty" to the whole of the charges. The case that was proceeded with charged the prisoner with feloniously forging a cheque for £1,200, with intent to defraud the London and Westminster Bank.

Serjeant Ballantine, in opening the case to the jury, said that the prisoner had been in the service of the London and Westminster Bank for several years, and was employed in a situation of trust. Part of his duty was to receive the cheques at the clearing-house, and to see them entered on the books of the bank: and it appeared that, on the 18th of December last, a cheque for £1,200, purporting to be signed by one of the customers of the bank named Carrington, was passed through the Clearing House, and the proceeds of that cheque were paid to the credit of the prisoner at the Western Bank of London, where he kept an account. The cheque in question, after coming into the possession of the prisoner, had never been seen, and he, of course, had plenty of opportunity to destroy it if he had been so minded.

Some formal evidence having been given of the cheque in question having passed through the Clearing House, and that an entry of it was made in the bank books, and that it was then handed to the prisoner, Mr. Serjeant Ballantine called the clerk to Mr. Roy, the solicitor for the prosecution, to prove that he served a notice upon the prisoner to produce the cheque upon the trial, in order that secondary evidence might be given of its contents, if he should fail to do so. Mr. Giffard, for the prisoner, objected that the terms of the notice were insufficient. The notice merely required the prisoner to produce a cheque for £1,200, which was alleged to be forged, but neither the name of the party who signed it, the date, or any other particular was given, that would enable the prisoner to know what cheque was referred to.

The Recorder, after reading the notice, said it certainly appeared to him that it was insufficient to call the attention of the prisoner to the particular cheque that he was required to produce, and that the prosecution could not therefore offer secondary evidence of the contents of the instrument.

Serjeant Ballantine said, as his Lordship was of opinion that he was not in a condition to give secondary evidence of the contents of the cheque, it would be useless to proceed further with the present charge.

The jury consequently, under his Lordship's direction, returned a verdict of *Not Guilty*.

Mr. Serjeant Ballantine then said that the same difficulty would arise on all the other charges of forgery, and he must therefore apply to the Court to postpone the trial of the other indictments, in order to give an opportunity for a fresh notice to be served upon the prisoner.

Mr. Giffard then held a conference with Mr. Serjeant Ballantine, and he

subsequently stated that, with the permission of the Court, the prisoner would retract his plea of "Not Guilty," to one of the indictments which charged him with larceny in stealing a cheque, and plead "Guilty" to that charge, and he said he believed that his learned friend, if this course were taken, would consent to abandon the charges of forgery.

The prisoner then pleaded "Guilty" to an indictment charging him with stealing a cheque the property of his employers.

Mr. Roy, the solicitor for the prosecution, in answer to questions put by the Recorder, said, that the charge against the prisoner to which he had pleaded guilty was not a solitary case, but there were several others of a similar kind. The prisoner was one of the upper clerks, and had been in the service for 12 years, and until these transactions were discovered, the prisoner fully enjoyed the confidence of the bank, and was very highly thought of.

The Recorder, in passing sentence, said that the prisoner had pleaded guilty to a very serious charge, and it was clear that it was not a single case, and that he had not yielded to any sudden temptation, but that he had for a long time been carrying on a system of dishonesty towards his employers. Persons who betrayed the trust reposed in them must be taught that such a proceeding would inevitably meet with severe punishment when it was detected, and he therefore felt it is duty to order the prisoner to kept in penal servitude for six years.

Mr. Serjeant Ballantine said he thought it right to state, in justice to the establishment and the gentlemen employed in it, that the bank had been established for 25 years, and that, although 200 clerks were employed in it, this was only the third instance in which a prosecution had been instituted against any one connected with the establishment.

LIBEL BY THE SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY ALLEGING THE STOPPAGE OF THE LEWES OLD BANK.—WHITFIELD AND OTHERS *v.* THE SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, on the 6th July, an action was tried before Lord Campbell, in which the plaintiffs, Messrs. Whitfield and Molineux, the proprietors of the Old Bank at Lewes, in the county of Sussex, sued the South Eastern Railway Company to recover damages for publishing by the electric telegraph, at the several stations on that company's railway, that the Lewes Old Bank had stopped payment. The declaration contained as many as eight counts. In the first six the company were charged with the publication of defamatory matter, and in the seventh and eighth it was alleged that by the negligence of the company in the management of their telegraph a message sent thereby, that the Lewes Old Bank had stopped payment, became divulged and public. The declaration alleged special damage. The defendants pleaded the general issue, and also denied that they were the proprietors or managers of the telegraph.

Mr. Lush, Q.C., Mr. Creasy, Mr. Hawkins, and Mr. Spinks, appeared for the plaintiff; the Attorney-General, Mr. Monk, Q.C., and Mr. Serjeant Petersdorff for the defendants.

Mr. Lush, in opening the case to the jury, said, the question involved in the present action was one of great importance as affecting the conduct of the proprietors of electric telegraphs in transmitting messages which were injurious to the character of others. The plaintiffs were the proprietors of the Old Bank at Lewes, which had been established for 70 years, was in good credit, and issued its own notes, and had three branches—viz., at

Eastbourne, East Grinstead, and Tunbridge Wells. The defendants had telegraphed a statement, for which there was not the slightest foundation, that the bank had stopped payment, to every station upon their line. The telegraph was the property of the company, and at each station there was a dial behind the counter, which was not guarded in any way, and the telegraph was worked by the station-masters and porters at the several stations. On the 9th of July last a message found its way, from some person on the line, that the Lewes Old Bank had stopped payment. The company declined to say who had forwarded the message, but when it reached London it was at once adopted by the company as true. They might have applied for information to Messrs. Williams, Deacon, and Co., the London agents of the bank, whose place of business was within a short distance, or they might have got information from Lewes by the Brighton line; but, instead of doing that, they immediately transmitted a message to every station on their line in these words, "Take no more notes or cheques of the Lewes Bank."

Lord Campbell—That was a direction to their own servants.

Mr. Lush said, he did not dispute the right of the company to give instructions to their clerks as to what notes or cheques they were to take, but he contended that in transmitting those messages the company must take care that they did not get abroad to the public. Some time previous to July the Hastings Bank had stopped payment, and a notice to that effect was put up in the company's stations; and when the message in question was transmitted, a similiar notice was posted up by its side that the Lewes Old Bank had also stopped payment. In transmitting such messages the company took no precautions; they did not head them "Private," or "Confidential," but they made the messages public, and circulated the news with the greatest rapidity. The news was posted up at between 12 o'clock and 1 o'clock in the day, but, fortunately, it did not reach Lewes until the bank had closed; for had it reached earlier, the probability was that this bank, nothwithstanding the affluence of the proprietors, would have become bankrupt. The news soon reached Messrs. Williams, Deacon and Co., the London agents, and one of the firm went to the railway company, and told them of their error, and induced them to send down another message to the station clerk, to "Take the notes and cheques of the Lewes Old Bank till further notice." Messrs. Williams and Deacon also despatched a clerk down to Lewes with gold and notes to meet the run which was expected to take place on the bank. The next morning the doors of the bank were besieged, notwithstanding the counter notice, and for days and weeks a run took place, at a time when money was in great demand. The plaintiffs were thus compelled to go into the market and realise securities, which could only be done at the time at a great loss. The learned counsel here read a correspondence which had taken place between the plaintiffs' solicitor and the company, in which the latter admitted that the injurious message had originally been sent up from the Ticehurst station; but who had originated the rumour they declined to state. The learned counsel said he should show that in other electric telegraph offices precautions were taken that injurious messages should not get abroad, and that for that purpose the electric dial was enclosed and screened from view, and those who had charge of it were required to make a declaration of secrecy; but in the present case the company made no inquiry, but forwarded the message as if true. At Rye it was posted up side by side with that of the Hastings Bank; and at other stations, when the authority for the rumour was asked for, the clerks showed the the message. At Hastings the South Eastern and the Brighton lines had

a joint station; and the master of that station sent the message down the Brighton line. Thus in half an hour the message was known at every station on the South Eastern and Brighton lines. The learned counsel said he did not seek in this case to establish any new law, but only to apply the known law to a new state of things. He asked the jury whether the proprietors of electric telegraphs were to use them in this wanton way for their own benefit; for, if so, the credit of every merchant was at the mercy of every electric telegraph clerk. The principle, "*sic utere tuo ut non alienum lædas*," must be applied in this case, and those who used instruments of danger must be taught to take all necessary precautions, and in case of negligence they must be held liable.

Thomas Whitmarsh, a solicitor residing at Rye, was examined by Mr. Cleasby, and said that, having heard the rumour, he went to the station there, and saw the message, "Take no more notes or cheques of the Lewes Bank," posted up in the station, behind the counter where the tickets were given, so that any one could read it.

A Mr. Vidler, examined by Mr. Hawkins, gave similar evidence, and said he could see the dial in the office, and that the station-master, head-porter and under-porter were in the habit of transmitting messages.

Thomas Stevenson, examined by Mr. Spinks, said he saw the message at Hastings between 1 and 2 o'clock.

The correspondence was then put in.

Mr. Lush called for the message from the Ticehurst station which the secretary's letter spoke of as having been sent to the head office.

The Attorney-General said he did not produce it at present.

The message forwarded from London was here read, as follows:—

"South Eastern Railway Electric Telegraph.—From London to all stations, 12 10, 9th July, 1857. Please to forward the following message on service:—

"'No more cheques or notes on the Lewes Bank are to be taken.'

W. Beeby."

— Oliver, the station-master at the Tunbridge station, was here examined by Mr. Lush, and produced a number of telegraphic messages entered in a book in proof of the case opened by the plaintiffs' counsel. On cross-examination by the Attorney-General, he explained that the words "on service" did not mean that the message was confidential, but that it was on the service of the company, and was not to be charged for. The word "private" was used when the message was intended to be confidential. He was required to produce other messages sent on this subject, one of which was at 12 20, from himself to Mr. Herbert, at the Ticehurst station, asking, "From whom did you hear that the Lewes Bank had stopped? Reply." The answer he got from Herbert was, "The word was brought to me." On re-examination, he said the book containing the messages was kept in a drawer, and it was open to himself, the telegraph clerk, and office-porter. He used to work the telegraph, and several others understood it.

George Whitfield, one of the plaintiffs, stated that the bank at Lewes usually closed at 4 p.m. On the 9th of July, at half-past 6 p.m., a clerk from Eastbourne came to the bank, and told him of the rumour that the bank had stopped; and the same evening the chief clerk from Messrs. Williams and Deacon's (who were also bankers to the company) arrived from London with a supply of bank-notes. The next morning there was great excitement at Lewes, and there was a run upon the bank. The notes were brought in, and the depositors gave notice to withdraw their deposits, and in some instances customers withdrew their balances. Their issue of notes was £23,000. The bank was obliged to realise to the extent of

£28,000, at a time when money was 6 and 7 per cent. Confidence was now restored. There was also a run on all the branches, and it began at Eastbourne on the preceding day, the 9th, in the afternoon. On cross-examination by the Attorney-General, the witness said the bank had weathered the storm.

Other witnesses were examined to show that runs had taken place at the several branches.

John Stahlschmidt, a clerk in the Electric Telegraph office in Lothbury, was then called, and stated that all persons employed in the office there were required to sign a declaration to observe the most profound secrecy. No stranger was admitted to the room when the instrument was worked. On cross-examination by the Attorney-General, he stated that the company had 370 stations all over the kingdom. He knew of no instances where the dial could be seen by the public. Two sorts of instruments were used—one, the dial instrument; and the other an instrument which printed every letter whether it was sounded or not.

The witness Oliver was here recalled and shown his signature in a book to a declaration that he would maintain all proper secrecy respecting "the affairs of the company."

At the close of the plaintiffs' case, the Attorney-General submitted there was no evidence; but

Lord Campbell said, he thought there was evidence for the jury.

On the Attorney-General saying he did not propose to give any evidence,

Lord Campbell said, the learned Attorney-General might have leave to move to enter a nonsuit if the Court should be of opinion that there was no evidence to go to the jury.

The Attorney-General then addressed the jury for the defendants. He could say with the greatest sincerity that all who took an active part in the affairs of the defendants' company deeply regretted what had taken place. It was a happy circumstance that the plaintiffs, in the language which he had suggested to one of them, had been enabled to weather the storm and to come out of the trial unscathed. But whether any one was to blame for what had occurred, he was quite ready to leave to the sound sense and judgment of the jury. It appeared that one of the station-masters had received a message, which he telegraphed to London-bridge, that the Lewes Bank had stopped payment. That message originally came from the station-master Herbert, and whatever fault there was, if there was any, was the fault of Herbert, not of the company, who did not in any way authorise it. But he contended that Herbert had done no more than his duty in transmitting the intelligence which he had heard to his employers, who were liable to have the notes of the bank tendered to them along the line. The communication was privileged, and therefore could not be the subject of an action, unless express malice were shown. If the plaintiffs could have an action for the defamation against the company, the company would have one also against their own station-master who had sent the message. The company had given no authority to their servants to circulate slander. No servant of the company had been actuated by any malice, and, as no express malice was shown, the defendants were entitled to a verdict.

Lord Campbell, in summing up, said, this was a most important case, and there could be no doubt the plaintiffs had sustained great peril by the run which had taken place upon the bank. Happily, they had been enabled to weather the storm, though with great pecuniary loss. His Lordship told the jury to direct their attention to the last two counts in the declaration, which charged the defendants with negligence in the transmission of

messages by their electric telegraph, whereby the rumour in question spread abroad and caused the run upon the bank. In point of law, the company were liable for the negligence of their servants, and, if by that negligence others had suffered, the company were bound to make recompense. With regard to the seventh and eighth counts, his Lordship observed that, if the company had taken due care, they might have transmitted both the messages,—the one that the Lewes Bank had stopped payment, and the other not to take any more cheques or notes of that bank, without their becoming known and divulged; but if by their negligence the messages were disclosed and spread abroad, and a run was brought upon the bank, he (Lord Campbell) directed the jury, in point of law, that the defendants were liable to the action, and were bound to make compensation. The company did not say they did not know how the rumour got abroad, but that they refused to tell. There was evidence to show that the run upon the bank arose from the negligence of the defendants, and if the jury were of that opinion, they need not trouble themselves with the other six counts of the declaration, but must find their verdict for the plaintiffs for the amount of pecuniary loss which they thought they had sustained.

The jury found for the plaintiffs—Damages £2,000.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BANKING COMPANY.

The seventeenth annual meeting of the shareholders in this company was held on Tuesday, June 29th.

Mr. Edward Divett, M.P., chairman of the board of directors, presided.

Mr. Purdy, the manager, then read the following report:—

"In again meeting the proprietors, the court of directors have to intimate that the measures for increasing the capital of the company received prompt attention. From the number of new shares offered 3,752 were allotted, and are now in course of payment, in accordance with the terms of the issue.

"The general business of the bank has shown that the increased capital was necessary for maintaining the efficiency of its proceedings, and in extending proper facilities to those engaged in developing the resources of South Australia. A profitable field is there opened for legitimate banking; and the directors have continued their endeavours to avail themselves of the advantages at their command.

"They regret, however, to report that, in consequence of a series of advances at the Adelaide office, opposed to the court's principles of business, and at variance with their strongly expressed instructions, the colonial profits which should have attended the year's operations are not forthcoming. The extent of the loss is at present unknown, as securities taken to represent part of the debt are now only in process of realisation; but the directors, having given the subject their anxious consideration since the circumstances were known to them, have done all that was in their power for the benefit of the shareholders. The decision, as regards these nominal profits, has been come to with much regret; but the effect of it will be at once to keep the bank in the only true position it can hold with advantage to its future interests.

"There will therefore be only the London profit and loss account now

submitted to the proprietors, from which, instead of from the general operations of the company, they can alone receive on this occasion any return for their capital.

Balance on 25th May, 1857		£45,647	1 8
Applied to reserve fund		4,565	0 0
		£41,082	1 8
Undivided profit and net balance for 1857-58 in London ...		20,672	0 2
		£61,754	1 10
Dividend July, 1857...	£18,000 0 0		
Ditto, January, 1858	19,118 7 3		
Income tax	1,063 17 6		
		38,182	4 9
Balance on 31st May, 1858...		£23,571	17 1

The court of directors recommend that this amount be not subject to the usual deduction for reserve fund, and that a dividend be paid at the ordinary dates at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income tax.

The annual accounts, duly audited, will be submitted for inspection, showing the following results:—

LIABILITIES.

Circulation	£166,806 0 0
Deposits and current accounts	496,091 18 9
Debts due to colonial banks and other liabilities	102,075 16 9
Bills payable	123,739 6 4
Dividend not applied for	88 16 0
Capital paid up	356,260 0 0
Reserved fund...	57,018 2 3
Profit and loss	23,571 17 1
	£1,326,551 17 2

ASSETS.

Coin and bullion	£240,031 18 7
Bills receivable and securities	872,961 3 9
Debts due from colonial banks and other assets	143,000 7 11
Open policies	2,819 8 8
Bank premises and furniture	9,582 6 6
Investments for reserved fund	58,156 11 9
	£1,326,551 17 2

A branch has been opened at Gawler during the past year, under favourable auspices, and the court anticipate an advantageous business from that town, being a depôt for the mining districts, and now enjoying railway communication from Adelaide. South Australia, with its great sources of prosperity, is eminently suitable for the conduct of successful enterprise; and although its commercial accounts naturally reflect the over-trading which has been felt throughout the world, and there may be a season of depression for the colony to pass through, the directors believe it will continue its permanent attractions for the safe and profitable employment of capital. In carrying out its functions the bank will, so far as the directors are concerned,

attempt only sound and legitimate business, and they hope, with the sacrifices now made to adjust past transactions, a period of success will again attend the operations of the company.

The chairman in moving the adoption of the report expressed an intention not to make any extensive observations in the first instance, as he had no doubt he should be called upon, during the subsequent part of the proceedings, to address the shareholders at some length in answer to questions that would be put to him. He wished to mention, however, that he had received a vast number of letters from shareholders upon matters having reference to the affairs of the bank. It was his desire on all occasions to be courteous, and on friendly terms with the proprietors; but he did not consider it to be a part of his duty to impart to individual shareholders that which was not in his power to make known to the general body. He believed such a course would open the door to fraud and suspicion, and greatly injure the prospects of any establishment where it was adopted. (Hear, hear). Some of the communications, he admitted, were of a most proper character; but some demanded special information to be confidentially treated; and to such an extent were matters pushed in this direction that one gentleman complained that he had not been told of the probable fall in the price of shares, so that he might have sold out and purchased again at the reduced prices. If such requests were listened to —which he knew would never be the case—it would be nothing less than playing with loaded dice against the interests of the general body of shareholders; but he could assure the meeting that as long as he had the honour of being their chairman, and supported by such a board as the gentlemen by whom he was at that time surrounded, nothing of the kind should be allowed. (Hear, hear.) No information should ever be given to one and withheld from another; all shareholders should be regarded alike; no one should have any advantage over another. (Loud cheers.) But in the same proportion as he was unwilling to give private information to those who asked for it, he was then prepared to afford the fullest information upon all questions concerning the bank. (Hear, hear.) It was true there had been losses, but no ground for serious alarm existed; and he saw no reason why for the future the bank should not be as prosperous as it had hitherto been. (Hear, hear.)

Admiral Meynell, in seconding the motion, said it would certainly have been more agreeable to have received 12 per cent., the dividend of last year; but he reminded the meeting that 6 per cent., the amount recommended in the report, was equal to the sum declared on many former occasions. As he knew of nothing in their affairs more than had been stated by their chairman, he would only say that he considered the fact of the London branch having during the year made sufficient to give them 6 per cent. was not only most fortunate, but really something remarkable. With regard to the losses, gentlemen must not expect that, while all commercial companies sustained losses, their bank should entirely escape. (Hear, hear.) Neither must they forget that last year was altogether one characterised by great losses in various directions; in fact, the whole commercial community, more or less, suffered; and, regarding their affairs as a whole, he was agreeably surprised that they were able to receive as much as 6 per cent. without touching their reserve fund.

The Chairman announced that he should be happy to answer any questions, and enter fully into all matters that might be desired.

A Proprietor inquired how the losses were occasioned?

The Chairman said he wished, in giving his explanation, to avoid saying anything harsh against their colonial manager, Mr. Tinline. The bank had in former times received great services from Mr. Tinline, and it was not

necessary, because he had made some unfortunate mistakes, that they should cast any great amount of obloquy on him. He (the chairman) must attribute these losses mainly to the failing of Mr. Tinline's health, and to the dealings with reckless speculators in corn and flour. At the half-yearly balance, when Mr. Tinline's report came home, it advised the court of the loss of £5,000 by the failure of Collison. He must tell them that they (the directors) had always held Collison in great distrust; so much so, that although they might be surprised to hear it, yet, in acknowledging the report, they said they were glad to hear of the loss—they could, they felt, be quit of people in whom they could not trust. So great were their objections to the firm which had failed, that they did not regret the loss, but, much to their surprise, by a subsequent mail they were informed by Mr. Tinline that this loss had been converted into a profit. This was an extraordinary thing, for the corn and flour trade had been at a low ebb; but it very unexpectedly received a sudden rise. and Mr. Tinline, induced to make extensive advances, went on to an enormous extent, crediting his customers on what was called special securities—storage receipts—till at last the state of trade altered for the worst, and Collison found himself in the Insolvent Court. Mr. Tinline then got into a state of great excitement, and found himself incapable of further conducting the affairs of the bank. He virtually sent home his resignation, but he was requested to come home as soon as possible to explain. There was a standing order that nothing should be declared as profit till all bad and doubtful debts were written off, but he was sorry to say that this order had been disregarded by Mr. Tinline. According to that gentleman's estimate, there was a nominal profit for the year of about £50 000, while the losses were estimated at 36,000, by the fall in the prices of corn and flour. Now, in order to meet this loss in a manly manner, he suggested that they should dismiss from their minds all hope of receiving any profit from Adelaide for the past year. Of course there was a probability of receiving something when the securities were realised; but he urged them to wait until they had the money in their hands. (Hear, hear.) When the directors found that Collison and others had failed, they determined to realise all the special securities they held, and on that realisation would depend what they would save out of the wreck. He had not any very great hopes, for when the corn market in Melbourne was in a bad state Mr. Tinline had shipped corn to Singapore, where there was no market for that article; then to Madras, where that description of merchandise was unsaleable, and ultimately to Calcutta, where the demand was inconsiderable.

Mr. Morrison did not think the chairman had stated the actual amount which was in jeopardy.

The Chairman said the amount of special securities was about £50,000. A great mistake had been made with regard to making the advances on those securities, and therefore he could not see his way clear as to what would be the result of last year's colonial profits until the securities were realised.

Mr. G. Miller asked if there was any objection to state what these special securities referred to consisted of.

The Chairman said they comprised storage receipts of flour and corn, and in respect to them he had apprehensions that some frauds had been committed in a manner with which Mr. Tinline was not acquainted.

Mr. H. Wheeler thought they should look upon the matter as men of business, and regard the colonial profits for the past year as lost. His opinion was that they ought to be thankful that they had realised sufficient profit at home to enable the directors to declare the 6 per cent. There might be something realised from the colonial securities, and if so that

amount would be included in the next year's profits. He thought in their own breasts they should look upon the colonial profits as gone, and he felt the directors had done well in recommending the 6 per cent., which he (himself) should be happy to receive.

The Chairman said that the great profits of the London branch were mainly owing to the extraordinary zeal and talent of their excellent Manager, Mr. Purdy, throughout the whole of the anxious period they had just passed through. They had certainly a good deal of money to employ, and a quantity of first class paper had offered at 12 per cent., which had been taken without the loss of a sixpence. There was great credit due to Mr. Purdy, and in fact he thought that gentlemen was deserving of every commendation, not only from the board of directors, but from the body of proprietors in general. (Applause.)

Mr. Watson thought the question of the losses was not so serious a matter as was at first supposed, for after all they had not lost any of their capital. They were now in as safe a position as ever, and he hoped they would regard the loss as one affecting merely their temporary income.

Mr. Smith wished to draw the attention of the meeting to the fact that the colonial directors (consisting of three paid men) would have done their duty better had they not allowed the heavy advances to be made by the manager to such a bankrupt firm. It was, indeed, a serious matter for so large a sum as nearly £50,000 to be advanced on such securities.

The Chairman admitted that it was a most monstrous sum, and that the board of directors were fully alive to the importance of the question raised by Mr. Smith; still it was a very difficult thing to get proper men in the colonies. He should not advise the discussion of the question at present, repeating that the directors were fully sensible of its importance. (Hear, hear.)

Some discussion here took place as to appropriating a portion of the reserve fund to increase the dividend, but it was explained that that fund was not for the purposes of division, the deed of settlement only allowing the use of the reserve in case of loss of capital.

The motion having been put and carried unanimously,

The Chairman then moved the resolution as regards the 6 per cent. dividend.

The Rev. Mr. Timpson seconded the motion.

A Proprietor suggested that, as they had the money in London, would it not be better to pay the dividend at once? (Laughter.)

The Chairman—It would be very pleasant, no doubt, but it would be very improper to do so. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Miller rose to propose a resolution to the effect that there should be two meetings in the year, instead of one as at present.

The Chairman said it was impossible to do so under the terms of the deed of settlement, and they could not make any alteration unless they had the concurrence of fourth-fifths of the proprietors. At the same time he wished it to be observed that the directors did not oppose any motion of the sort.

Mr. Miller then proposed—

"That this meeting be adjourned until Tuesday, the 21st December next, at one o'clock, to receive such report as the directors can furnish as to the result of the colonial accounts for the previous year."

The Rev. Mr. Timpson seconded the resolution.

The Chairman said he and his brother directors would be most happy to meet the proprietors as proposed, if the shareholders so wished it, and he begged them then to signify their approval or disapproval of such a course. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Wells thought that they had all the information they could get, and such a resolution would only tend to encumber the public with an idea that there was something wrong in the background. He thought the question should be left to the directors.

The motion was put and carried, with but one dissentient.

The chairman then said that they were so much indebted to Mr. Purdy for the zeal and ability he had shown in the discharge of his duties, that he thought they should not separate without passing a cordial vote of thanks to that gentleman. (Applause.)

Mr. Purdy, in acknowledging the compliment, observed that he could only say he was extremely obliged to the meeting and to the board of directors for their confidence and support.

Mr. Miller then moved the heartfelt thanks of the meeting to the chairman and board of directors for the able and efficient manner in which they had conducted the affairs of the bank. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Morrison briefly seconded the motion.

Mr. J. R. Harris, before it was put, wished to know whether any change in the colonial direction was intended?

The Chairman replied that no change would be made at present.

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman assured the meeting that the directors were very grateful for the mark of confidence which they had received, and observed that it was a great pleasure to see the proprietors expressing their confidence and support in the directors during bad as well as the good times. (Applause.)

CARLISLE CITY AND DISTRICT BANK.

The directors have declared a dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent. for the half-yearly ending 30th June, 1858, being equal to 20 per cent. per annum, both payable on 5th August next.

The profits during the half-year, after paying all expenses, amount to £5,834 19*s.* 8*d.*, being at the rate of £20 2*s.* 5*d.* per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital of £58,000. The estimated loss of £800 written off last half-year having been fully recovered and replaced to the auxiliary fund, that fund, after paying the above dividend and bonus, amounts to £2,476 9*s.* 4*d.*, subject to the deduction of one half-year's income tax. The guarantee fund remains complete at £19,333 6*s.* 8*d.*

COLONIAL BANK.

The forty-first half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors was held at the London Tavern on the 7th of July, Mr. John Gurney Hoare, deputy-chairman, in the chair, in the absence of Mr. Marryat from illness. The following report of the directors was read by the secretary:—

In compliance with the provisions of the charter the directors now lay before the proprietors the following statement of the debts and assets of the corporation, on 31st December, 1857, and of the profit made during the half-year ending at that period, namely:—

DEBTS.

Circulation	£287,584	1	8
Deposits and other liabilities	1,560,624	19	0
Paid-up capital	500,000	0	0
Reserved fund	4,955	14	4
Profit	30,758	12	7
	£2,383,923	7	7

ASSETS.

Specie	£256,040	14	3
Due to the bank in the colonies, on bills discounted and purchased, including those past due	934,258	11	10
Due to the bank in the colonies, on current accounts ...	22,022	2	10
Due to the bank in London, on bills remitted, cash at bankers', &c.	1,166,567	3	2
Bank premises and furniture in London and the colonies	5,034	15	6
	£2,383,923	7	7

The directors have much satisfaction in stating that the opinion which was expressed in their last report, that the effects of the monetary crisis upon the business of the bank would not prove serious, has been found correct; for although some loss will ensue, it will not be important, and it has been entirely provided for. They also report with pleasure that the accounts of the half-year just concluded show, so far as they have been received, that the business was going on satisfactorily. From the amount of profit, as stated above, the proprietors will perhaps conceive that the directors would be justified in now proposing an increased rate of dividend; but they are so much impressed with the propriety of establishing as early as possible a substantial reserved fund, and from what has passed at former meetings, they feel so sure of the concurrence of the proprietors in that step, that they abstain from doing so for the present, and recommend that out of the profits of the half-year ending 31st December, which amount, after providing for income tax and for doubtful debts, to £30,752 12 7

Dividend made of 3 per cent., being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, on the paid-up capital of the corporation, which will require	15,000	0	0
	£15,758	12	7
Leaving	4,955	14	4
To be added to the dividend fund, which will then amount to	£20,714	6	11

The statement of accounts and the report were received and adopted, and a dividend declared of 3 per cent., being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable on and after the 13th of July,

A vote of thanks to the chairman and directors was carried with acclamation.

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

The annual meeting of the shareholders in this company was held at the offices of the bank, No. 38, Old Broad-street, on the 12th July, for the reception of the twentieth report of the directors; to re-elect the retiring directors; and on other business. Mr. J. J. Cummins in the chair.

Mr. Saunders, the secretary, read the following report and statement of accounts:—

The directors have pleasure in reporting the progress of the bank's business for the year ending in the colonies on the 31st December last, and in London on the 30th June. Although the course of exchange has been

far from favourable, and some failures have taken place involving loss to the bank, yet, considering the events by which the last year has been marked, and the feeling of apprehension expressed at the extraordinary half-yearly meeting in January, it is satisfactory to the directors to report that the profits of the year have admitted of their writing off every loss which has been sustained, making provision to cover all doubtful dependencies, and adding the sum of £3,717 4*s.* to the balance of undivided profit, after payment of the dividend now to be declared. The latest accounts received from the colonies are evidently of a more cheering character as to commercial affairs, and confirm the confidence with which the directors look for a speedy return to general prosperity. The directors are glad to announce that the practice recently adopted of allowing interest on the balances of current accounts has been discontinued by all the banks in New South Wales, and they hope soon to learn that the same judicious course has been followed in Victoria. The directors will gladly encourage every measure which tends to promote good feeling on the part of the banks, and indicates a desire to adopt in common such a course of business as is likely to prove generally beneficial, and to check a dangerous system of competition. The increase of gold production seems evidently to keep pace with the spread of population in the interior; and looking to the immense extent of territory yet to be explored, the directors see nothing to lead them to apprehend any diminution in the resources of these great portions of our colonial empire. It has afforded much pleasure to the directors to be able to make their services available in the transmission of the funds arising from the loan of £500,000 raised by the home government in aid of the general government of New Zealand. The bank has contracted with the Lords of her Majesty's Treasury to take this loan, and is now about to dispose of a portion of the bonds by public tender. Considering that these bonds are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of Great Britain and Ireland, securing the principal and the interest at 4 per centum per annum for 30 years from the date of issue, the directors will recommend to this meeting that a power be granted to them to change the security in which the reserve fund stands, as invested under the authority of the general meeting of proprietors held on the 12th July, 1852—namely, the new Three per Cents., then at Three-and-a-Quarter per Cent. Stock—and to invest the proceeds in these bonds, to be deposited in the Bank of England in the names of the trustees for this bank. The following new branches, referred to in the directors' report of 11th January last, have since been advised as opened—viz., Orange, in New South Wales, and Maryborough, in Victoria; and an agency has been formed at Gawler, in South Australia. The directors are quite satisfied with the beneficial results which have arisen from the opening of the new branches, under the judicious arrangements made by the inspectors. James John Cummins, Esq., and Charles Edward Mangles, Esq., M.P., are the directors who retire on this occasion in accordance with the provisions of the deed, and now offer themselves for re-election.

The directors proceed to submit the statement of accounts, which presents an amount of profit for the year now reported on of £173,605 17*s.* 1*d.* to be added to the former balance of £1,382 8*s.* 5*d.*, from which, deducting income-tax and payment of dividend to Christmas last, there remains £87,099 12*s.* 5*d.* as the amount of undivided profit. This admits of £82,000 being appropriated to the purpose of dividend, which the directors have determined to apply as interest on the capital as it stood on 31st December last; and the same will furnish a dividend, by way of interest, of £10 per cent. for the half-year, on the amount paid up at that date in

respect of each share in the capital of the company, payable in London, free of income-tax, on the 27th instant, and in the colonies, with the addition of income-tax, as soon as the inspectors shall fix, after receipt of advices.

LIABILITIES.

Circulation	£644,563	0	0
Deposits	2,403,931	10	8
Bills payable and other liabilities (including bills for collection, and reserve held against doubtful dependencies)	1,742,979	2	4
Balance of undivided profits	87,099	12	5
Reserve fund (invested as per contra)	200,000	0	0
Instalments on third series shares, in course of payment..	111,480	0	0
Paid-up capital	820,000	0	0
	£6,010,053	5	5

ASSETS.

Specie on hand, and cash balances	£840,190	2	9
Bullion	104,276	7	7
Bank premises and property	85,603	17	1
Government securities	382,400	3	0
Bills receivable and other securities (including bills for collection)	4,397,582	15	0
Investment of reserve fund, New Three per Cents. ...	200,000	0	0
	£6,010,053	5	5

STATEMENT OF PROFITS.

Balance of undivided profits at June, 1857				£79,282	8 5
Out of which a dividend was declared, by way of interest, amounting to				77,000	0 0
Leaving a balance of				1,382	8 5
To which are now to be added the profits of the past year, ending at the branches on Dec. 31, 1857, and at the London office, June 30, 1858—viz.,					
For half-year as reported in January, 1858,	£88,338	5	11		
Ditto, now reported...	85,267	11	2		
	173,605	17	1		
Deduct income-tax paid for year, on the average of the last three years	5,888	13	1		
				167,717	4 0
				£169,092	12 5
Deduct amount of interest paid to proprietors at Christmas, 1857				82,000	0 0
Leaving a net balance of undivided profits at this date of				£87,099	12 5

RESERVE FUND.

As reported at June, 1857	£200,000 0 0

The Chairman then said that as often as it had been his pleasure to meet the proprietors on similar occasions, he scarcely ever recollected one occasion when he could add so little to a report as to that they had just read. In that report the directors had laid the whole circumstances of the bank before the proprietors. This, however, he might say, that if the directors had had to write and prepare that report after the letters they had received that morning, it would have been more confident in its character as to the commercial improvement and prosperity of the colony. Their advices enabled them to represent that with regard to their branches there was an evident improvement in every one of them. He said this to show that the directors were perfectly justified in using the words they had in the report. He believed that the position of this bank stood as high as any; and when they looked at the amount of business which had been done, he might say that none stood higher than the Union Bank of Australia at the present time. (Hear, hear.) He might be allowed to advert to the loan to the New Zealand government, it being a matter of great interest to the bank. In the course of a week, or perhaps at an earlier period, the directors would be in a position to offer the bonds to the public. They would have been issued sooner, as they had about £210,000 in their hands, and he thought they should be in a position to offer £300,000, but there was a little uncertainty about it until they had received their next advices. The contract was that the bonds should bear interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, for the term of thirty years, secured on the Consolidated Fund of Great Britain and Ireland. The directors had felt it their duty, on many grounds, to defer offering the bonds to the public till the present time, and the profits which might arise from them would come into the next December's account. Therefore that portion of the capital that did not bear fruit during the past half-year would participate in all the profits of the next, although an earlier sale might have increased the profits of the previous half-year had the directors sent the bonds into the market a little earlier. There would be a resolution submitted to the proprietors recommending that they should sell the New Three per Cents., in which the reserve fund of £200,000 was placed in terms of the proprietors' resolution on the 12th of July, 1852. Strange to say, that it was the same day as that on which they now proposed to alter it, and to invest the proceeds of that fund in those bonds to which he had referred, and which would be lodged in the Bank of England. The directors anticipated by that course to gain an increased revenue of rather more than £1,500 a year. (Hear, hear.) The future dealings with the matter, and as to the division, would be submitted to them at a future meeting; but he might tell them it was satisfactory to know that their reserve fund would be placed in securities of a permanent character, which could not be liable to fluctuation, and it would bear interest at 4 per cent. per annum for thirty years, payable out of the funds of Great Britain and Ireland. (Hear, hear.) He did not know that there were any other topics to which he need refer, but at the same time he should be most happy to answer any questions which hon. proprietors wished to put to him. (Cheers.)

A proprietor wished to know at what price the £200,000 in the Three per Cents were bought. His object was to ascertain if there would be any loss or any gain on the proposed alteration.

The Chairman said there would no doubt be a loss upon the sale, as when the £200,000 was purchased the stock stood at 3¼, but that had since been reduced.

Mr. Wilkinson asked whether any change had come over the views of the directors with regard to obtaining a charter to limit the liability of

the shareholders. After the times they had recently passed through he felt the shareholders must be anxious as to the amount of their liability.

The Chairman really could not say that any change had come over their views with respect to the matter referred to by the honourable proprietor. He must remind honourable proprietors that they had a peculiar protection, there being a provision that a reserve equal to nearly one-quarter of their capital should be in the public funds; in fact it was kept quite distinct from the bank, and away from their own business altogether. A reserved fund could not be called so if it was kept in the bank to which it belonged, and their reserve fund was kept quite away from the bank; and Mr. Glyn, of the firm of Glyn, Mills and Co., and who was not in any way connected with the board of direction, was one of the trustees of it. His opinion was that that was the only way to keep a reserve fund for its proper object—viz., to secure the safety of the bank. There was a clause in their deed that if the directors thought one-quarter of their capital was jeopardised, they must state the fact to the proprietors and propose the dissolution of the bank. He thought, under those circumstances, it would be a grave thing to change the present state of things, especially as under the same system the bank had grown up from a small beginning into a large and most important business. He then referred to the measure at present before Parliament, and said it would be for the consideration of the directors as to what course they should pursue after the measure had passed into an act. That act would receive due deliberation at the hands of the directors, and it would be for them to say what they should do when the measure passed.

Mr. Wilkinson—In the event of the bill passing, you will at a future time take the opinions of the shareholders?

The Chairman replied in the affirmative, and, in answer to a further question, said a portion of the bonds would be offered at a minimum price, and that they would be disposed of by public tender.

A Proprietor inquired at what amount the bonds would be issued?

The Chairman replied, in £500 and £100 bonds, the principal and interest payable on the 1st of January and 1st of July, at the Bank of England.

A Proprietor—Will there be any preference?

The Chairman—Oh no; there will not. (Hear, hear.)

Captain Lawson then moved the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, which having been seconded by another shareholder, was carried by acclamation without further discussion.

Captain Lawson then proposed the following resolution:—"That the directors be authorised at their discretion to sell the New Three per Cent. stock, in which the reserve fund of £200,000 is invested under the authority of a resolution passed at the annual meeting of proprietors of the 12th July, 1852, and to invest the proceeds in the guaranted bonds of the loan raised in aid of the New Zealand Government, by the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 20th and 21st Vict., c. 51."

The motion having been seconded was also carried unanimously.

The announcement of the dividend at the rate of £10 per cent. for the half-year having been made, the retiring directors, Mr. J. J. Cummins and Mr. C. E. Mangles, M.P., were re-elected.

A cordial vote of thanks having been passed to the chairman and directors,

The Chairman, in acknowledging the compliment, thanked the proprietors for their expression of confidence, and trusted they would continue to merit it,

The proceedings then terminated.

UNION BANK OF LONDON.

THE ordinary half-yearly meeting of proprietors in this company was held at the bank, Princes-street, on the 14th July; Sir Peter Laurie, governor of the bank, in the chair.

The secretary read the following report:—

The directors have much satisfaction in reporting that, after making full provision for bad and doubtful debts, and payment of all charges, including the sum of £65,428 18*s.* 1*d*, for interest paid and due to customers on their current and deposit accounts, the net profits of the half-year ending the 30th of June last amount to £67,495 8*s.* 7*d.* This sum enables the directors to declare a dividend for the last six months at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 2½ per cent. on the paid-up capital, amounting together to the sum of £45,000; and to appropriate the sum of £15,000 as an addition to the reserved fund, leaving an unappropriated balance of £7,495 8*s.* 7*d.* to be carried forward to a new profit and loss account. The dividend and bonus now declared, with the dividend and bonus paid in January last, amount to 15 per cent. on the paid-up capital for the financial year now ended. The directors regret that Mr. Keith Barnes, from the pressure of professional avocations, has felt himself obliged to resign his seat in the direction; and in pursuance of the provisions of the deed of settlement, they have elected Mr. Beale, M.P., to supply the vacancy, an appointment which they are sure will have the approval of the proprietors. The following directors retire by rotation, viz.:—John Scott, Esq., Leo Schuster, Esq., and John Barnes, Esq., who, being eligible, offer themselves, and are recommended by the court, for re-election.

LIABILITIES.

Paid-up capital, £10 per share on 60,000 shares ...	£600,000	0	0
Due by the bank on current accounts, deposit receipts, (including interest accrued), circular notes, &c. ...	9,032,134	16	11
Reserved fund, invested in Consols, as per contra ...	150,000	0	0
	9,782,134	16	11
Surplus	81,543	3	8
	£9,863,678	0	7

ASSETS.

Cash in the bank, at the Bank of England, and at call...	£1,563,379	16	0
Government Stock, Exchequer Bills, and City Bonds ...	1,057,295	0	0
Loans, bills discounted, &c.	6,985,508	0	2
£171,371 1*s.* 2*d.* Consols (taken at 87½, present value being 95½), reserved fund	150,000	0	0
Bank premises, consisting of freehold buildings in Princes-street, Mansion-house-street, Argyll-place, and Fleet-street; and lease and fixtures of 4, Pall-mall East	107,495	4	5
	£9,863,678	0	7

APPROPRIATION OF THE SURPLUS.

Dividend on paid-up capital, for half-year, to 30th June, 1858, now declared at 5 per cent.	£30,000	0	0
Bonus now declared at 2½ per cent.	15,000	0	0
Addition to reserved fund, at 2½ per cent.	15,000	0	0
	£60,000	0	0
Carried to profit and loss new account, viz.—			
Rebate of interest on bills not yet due	14,047	15	1
Undivided profit	7,495	8	7
	£81,543	3	8
Surplus, as above, after deducting all expenses and interest (£65,428 18*s.* 1*d.*) paid or due to customers on their current and deposit accounts	£81,543	3	8

The Chairman said they had heard the report read, and it was his duty to move its adoption, and that the dividend, as recommended in the report (payable on the 20th July), be declared.

Mr. James Farquhar, deputy-governor, seconded the motion.

Mr. Joseph Brown, before the report was put to the meeting, if he was not out of order, would like to ask a question or two. There was £15,000 added to the reserve fund from the profits of the past six months. The reserve fund was £150,000, and he wished to know whether that amount formed any part of the working capital, or whether it was invested to equalise the dividend, should they fall short of what might be deemed advisable to divide?

The Chairman—The £150,000 is a distinct sum in the Consols.

Mr. Brown said that the working capital then would be £600,000. He should like to know if that amount was wanted in the business of the bank?

Mr. Scrimgeour (the manager) said the bank did not want any capital at all to go on with the business. The capital was used to show the public a bold front, that they had an adequate sum to meet any emergencies without making calls. As to the amount of the capital, he had no hesitation in saying that he thought it was too small.

A Proprietor trusted that the directors would not be so foolish as to employ all the capital.

Mr. Gunton remarked that it did not matter whether it was called capital or reserve fund, so long as they had the money.

The motion was then carried unanimously.

On the motion of the chairman, that the retiring directors Messrs. John Scott, Leo Schuster and John Barnes, be re-elected,

Dr. Pretty wished to know whether those gentlemen had any connection with any other bank? He contended that in filling up any vacancies that might occur in the board, they should select those gentlemen who had no interest in any other bank.

The Chairman—The three gentlemen whose names have been read declare that they have no interest in any other bank.

Mr. P. Northall Laurie (director) said that, although those three gentlemen had answered in the negative, inasmuch as an important principle was involved in the question, he must say that he entirely objected to such a principle that a director in the Union Bank should hold no interest in any other bank. (Hear). It was one which could not be listened to, or agreed on, by the body of proprietors at large. Himself and their honourable friend the governor of the bank held shares in other

LONDON JOINT-STOCK BANK.

THE half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held on the 15th July, at the banking-house of the company, Princes-street, Bank, Mr. George Meek in the chair.

The secretary read the report and statement of accounts, which were as follows:—

It is with much pleasure that the directors again meet the proprietors to lay before them a statement of the affairs of the bank for the past six months. It will be seen by the annexed accounts that the net profits realised during the above period amount to £99,870 17*s.* 6*d.* This result enables the directors to declare a dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 10*s.* per share, leaving a balance of £32,370 17*s.* 6*d.* to be carried forward for appropriation at the end of the year. It is a gratification to the directors to lay before the meeting the following extract from the minutes of their proceedings:—

"At a meeting of the board, held on Thursday, the 6th day of May, 1858, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

"That, having taken into consideration the long and faithful services of Mr. Pollard, the unremitting devotion of his time and attention to the duties of his office, and especially the great integrity and independence which have distinguished him in the discharge of those duties—qualities which have contributed so largely to the prosperity and high character to which this bank has attained—the board is of opinion that a substantial testimonial should be presented to him to mark its appreciation of such merits.

"That a copy of the foregoing resolution, signed by the chairman, be delivered to Mr. Pollard, together with the sum of £3,000 as such testimonial."

These resolutions have been carried into effect, and the directors feel confident that they will have the hearty concurrence of the shareholders. The dividend and bonus will be payable on and after Friday the 23rd instant.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS.

Dr.

To capital paid-up, viz., 60,000 shares at £10 each ...			£600,000	0 0
Amount due by the bank			10,287,623	1 8
Amount of "The Guarantee Fund," 31st December, 1857	£187,014	9 1		
Six months' interest on ditto, at £3 per cent. per annum	2,805	4 3		
			189,819	13 4
To amount carried to profit and loss account			159,893	6 6
			£11,237,336	1 6

Cr.

By Government Stock, Exchequer Bills, and India Bonds			£1,483,592	15 2
Cash, loans, bills discounted and other securities ...			9,710,918	6 4
Building, furniture, &c., in Princes-street	£35,075	0 0		
Ditto ditto in Pall-mall	7,750	0 0		
			42,825	0 0
			£11,237,336	1 6

Dr. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To current expenses, proportion of building expenses, directors' remuneration, bad debts, income-tax, &c.	£37,071	5	9
Amount carried to profit and loss new account, being rebate of interest on bills discounted not yet due...	22,951	3	3
Dividend account for the payment of half-a-year's dividend, at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, upon £600,000, amount of paid-up capital upon 60,000 shares	37,500	0	0
Ditto for the payment of a bonus of 10*s.* per share...	30,000	0	0
Amount carried forward to profit and loss new account	32,370	17	6
	£159,893	6	6

Cr.

By balance brought down	£159,893	6	6

The Chairman then said—By the authority of the board of directors, I hereby declare a dividend for the half-year ending 30th June last after the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, and a further division of 10*s.* per share on the 60,000 paid-up shares out of the net profits of the half-year ending as above (hear). It is my duty to move that the report now read be received, and that it be printed for the use of the shareholders. The motion having been seconded,

Mr. Wilson said he was so well pleased with the report that he hardly liked to offer any observations; but as the chairman had been good enough on previous occasions to invite questions, and had given satisfactory replies to them, he hoped he should not be out of order in asking two questions on the present occasion. On the previous day their neighbours (the Union Bank of London) issued their report and boasted of having paid large sums in interest to their depositors, and to their customers not depositors, upon their balances. Now, the Joint-Stock Bank did not applaud themselves or make a great boast of having paid a large amount of interest to their customers, and he should like to know from the chairman what amount had been paid as compared with the Union Bank? They had seen the accounts, which must be deemed most favourable; but their neighbours, he repeated, took great credit to themselves that they had paid a large amount on balances, and sums paid at deposit. If it was a fair question, he should like to have an answer from the chairman. He also wished to ask another question. At the previous meeting the directors stated they had set apart, or rather appropriated, a large sum to meet any losses that might be occasioned by the then existing panic—to meet the contingencies of bad debts. If that sum had not been enough they would have thought the £7,071 5*s.* 9*d.* a large sum; but they must bear in mind that that included all sorts of charges. Would the chairman tell him whether the sum placed to meet those debts was equal to the amount they had to pay?

The Chairman said it would perhaps be more convenient that any questions upon which shareholders required information, and it would also save the time of the meeting, if they would have the goodness to ask them before he replied to those already put to him. His friend the deputy-chairman would take a note of them, and he (the chairman) would answer them to the best of his ability.

After a pause, no other question being put.

The chairman, in reply to Mr. Wilson, in reference to the question as to the interest they had paid to their customers—if they took the whole of last year, it would be found they had paid much more than their neighbours,

the Union Bank. He could not give the specific amount, but he was correct in what he had stated. As to the second question, the first item in the profit and loss account being larger than last year, the only explanation he could give was that the bad debts—he referred to the old bad debts—were in excess of the previous half-year.

Mr. G. H. Foster, a director, said at the end of last year, when they made large allowances on the transactions then pending, there were some bills which they had reason to believe would be paid in full, but which had not proved to be of that character.

Mr. Wilson thought the explanation quite satisfactory, although there was an increase of £10,000 in the item that had been referred to. (Hear, hear.)

The report was then received and adopted.

Mr. Wilson felt sure that the meeting would have the greatest satisfaction in paying that tribute to their directors to which they were so well entitled. (Hear, hear.) His opinion was that individually and collectively theirs was the best direction of any public institution in the world. (Hear, hear.) He knew most of them personally, and had always found they had the interest of the shareholders and the welfare of the bank paramount in their minds. They were all good men (hear, hear,) and the satisfactory account which had been rendered was the result of their discretion and wisdom. (Hear.) He thought the result was unparalleled, and when he came into the room and read the account he could scarcely refrain from taking his hands out of his breeches pockets, rubbing them with delight, and shouting huzza! (Loud cheers.) He was astonished at the large amount of profit realised by the care and indomitable perseverance of the executive. They had good directors, a good manager, good clerks, and with such a body of councillors, he thought there was not such a direction in the world. He moved, "That the best thanks of this meeting be tendered to the directors for their excellent general management of the affairs of the bank."

Mr. George Richard Johnson seconded the motion, which was carried *nem. con.*

The Chairman said he thanked them for the assurance of their confidence. The proprietors were pleased and satisfied with the report and accounts which had been submitted to them, but he thought they should not take any one particular account as the good result of their management. It was the desire of the directors that the accounts should always appear to be what they really were. (Hear, hear.) They accepted the thanks as an earnest of the future, and of the confidence of the shareholders in the correctness of the accounts submitted to them. He promised for himself and his brother directors that the accounts should always contain a faithful statement of the affairs of the bank.

Mr. Valentine Knight thought they should only be doing justice to their manager by expressing their appreciation of his long and valuable services. He had had the opportunity of knowing Mr. Pollard for many years, and had always found him careful of the interests of the bank, which in his opinion were nearest to his heart. He was sure they had every reason to thank him for his zeal and assiduity during the long time he had been connected with them, and therefore he should move the following resolution:—"That the thanks of the meeting be presented to George Pollard, Esq., for his long and able services; and on this occasion especially the meeting is desirous of repeating those thanks, and expressing the pleasure it has in assuring him of its cordial approval of the testimonial which has been presented to him by the directors."

Mr. Gibbs seconded the resolution, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Pollard said nothing could be more gratifying to his feelings than the manner in which the shareholders and directors had expressed their approbation of his conduct. No one could be more anxious to do his duty than he was, and he should ever continue to have the interests of the bank at heart. He again thanked them for the honour they had done him, and he had no doubt that the London Joint-Stock Bank would continue in its present prosperous course.

A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

UNITY JOINT STOCK BANK.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in this bank was held on 16th of July, at the London Tavern, Mr. J. J. Mechi in the chair.

The Secretary read the report and statement of accounts, which were as follows:—

"The directors present to the shareholders a full statement of the operations of the bank for the half-year ending the 30th June last.

"Although, contrary to the expectation expressed in their last report, there is not a surplus of profit left after payment of the working expenses, yet there is an improvement on the last half-year's profit and loss balance; and when the severe ordeal the bank has gone through in the interval is fairly taken into account, they think the result should not disappoint the shareholders. They confidently call attention to the amount of profit realised with scarcely a bad debt, which the present management has effected, as an earnest of what the probable result would have been if it had not had to contend, not only with the low rate of discount and general stagnation of trade which have prevailed, but also with the disturbing effect on the minds of the customers and the public, by the adverse attacks of parties who once were connected by office with the bank. The directors, however, relied on the sympathy and support of the proprietary in the unexpected difficulties as they arose, and have now the pleasure to acknowledge how fully they appreciated the vote of confidence and approbation in their favour expressed by a public meeting of shareholders called for a contrary intent, where more than 200 were present. The directors, having had under their careful consideration the effect of the loss of pecuniary strength by the amount of the past-due bills, as shown by the last balance-sheet, and in order that the bank might be prepared at all times to give adequate accommodation to customers, and to support public confidence in seasons of pressure, came to a resolution to increase the paid-up capital to £200,000, by calling up £50,000. They are gratified in being able to state that nearly four-fifths of the first call have been received, and that they have full reliance upon the further calls being also equally well met. The prudence of their decision to increase the paid-up capital has been evidenced by the testimony of public opinion from the time it was announced, and they believe that the step, although perhaps unprecedented in the history of joint-stock banks, has tended to and will permanently establish the bank. The progress of the branches at Brighton and in Leicester-square, since the last meeting, has not disappointed the expectation of the directors. The business of the Hertford branch has been transferred without loss. It is not proposed to open any more branches, and the two now working will continue to be watched with careful vigilance. The strictest economy has been observed in each depart-

ment, and the working expenses reduced to the lowest possible extent; some portions, however, of the Cannon-street premises remain unlet, for which the directors hope speedily to find responsible tenants, and thus still further lessen the expenditure. The amount of the past-due bills has been reduced £2,788 since the last meeting. The directors, although disappointed in this particular, feel that the gradually getting in of such debts is no little advance to the shareholders, and should not be overlooked in their estimate of the last half-year's operations of the bank. In this, as well as in other duties connected with the interest of the bank, much time has been devoted by the directors, and a most rigid supervision over its affairs has been exercised; but as unanimity of feeling and effort is an essential element of success, they again ask for the cordial co-operation and assistance of the shareholders, and hope that, ere long, the mutual principle of the institution will realise the best wishes of the shareholders. The retiring director is T. C. Hayward, Esq., who, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

"J. J. MECHI, Governor."

Balance-sheet of the Unity Joint-Stock Mutual Banking Association, 30th June, 1858.

Dr.

To original capital paid-up		£150,000	0 0
Amount received on account of call due 18th May ...		11,305	0 0
		161,305	0 0
Amount due on current and other accounts		103,447	7 4
Balance of interest account, after payment of interest on customers' balances, &c.		3,417	19 5
		£268,170	6 9

Cr.

By preliminary expenses, as per last report		£29,882	15 5
Loss on premises at Pimlico		1,933	3 7
" Exeter		272	8 4
" Hertford		29	16 2
		£32,118	3 6
Investments in bank premises, freehold at Brighton, &c.		24,537	3 0
Past-due bills		37,770	14 5
Current expenses of chief office and branches ...		4,219	14 0
Balance of profit and loss account, as per last report		1,714	12 2
Bills discounted, and loans to customers	£133,579 14 9		
Cash in hand	34,230 4 11		
		167,809	19 8
		£268,170	6 9

Profit and Loss Account.

To balance of last account...	£1,714	12 2
Current expenses of chief office and branches ...	4,219	14 0
	£5,934	6 2

By balance of interest account, after payment of interest on customers' balances, &c.			£3,417 19 5
Deficiency, as per report of 31st December, 1857	£1,714 12 2		
Ditto on operations during the past half-year, of which £350 are extraordinary charges, on closing the Hertford branch, &c.	801 14 7		
Balance carried forward			2,516 6 9
			£5,934 6 2

We, the undersigned, have examined the foregoing balance-sheet, and compared the items it comprises with the several books and vouchers relating thereto, and have found the same to be correct.

(Signed) W. Gould, W. S. Austin, } Auditors.

Unity-buildings, 13th July, 1858.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said he should do as he and the directors always had done—treat the matters he had to refer to with perfect truth and candour, and answer any questions the shareholders might desire to put to them. When they had last met, he had hoped that by this time the directors would be able to present to the shareholders a profit beyond the current expenditure, which they had expected would be reduced to £8,000 a year, or £700 a month. In the latter respect they had not been disappointed, the current expenses having been reduced from £1,260 per month to £700, making a reduction of £560 per month. But in respect to their hopes of making a profit they had been disappointed, and it needed no conjuror to tell them why. The unexpected fall in the rate of discount from 10 to 3 per cent. had had some effect in reducing their profits, but they had also been reduced by another circumstance. He reminded them of an address which had been circulated amongst the shareholders, by a few persons formerly connected with the institution, and also of the publication of a pamphlet by Mr. Baylis. These circumstances tend to create an apprehension that the public would become alarmed and would withdraw deposits from the bank. They, therefore, took prudential measures to have the means of paying everybody off, if they should apply for the money. They considered it their duty, at whatever loss of profit, to be ready to pay everybody, and that, if there was a run, they themselves would wind-up the bank, and not let others wind it up. (Hear, hear.) That course was of course attended with loss. He was happy to say that, if they could have known the result, they need not have made these preparations. There were very few withdrawals, and nothing that would have embarrassed them if they had not made those preparations; but it would not have been safe to trust to that. The current expenses, already reduced to £700, would, he hoped, be further reduced the next half-year to £600 or less. (Hear, hear.) But they did not know what might happen, and he did not wish to be too sanguine. There was another question to be considered. Should they raise enough profit to pay those expenses? He thought they would. The profit of this half-year, if only charged with the present current expenditure, would be £150, even as things were. But there were a number of clerks who had been dismissed in order of retrenchment, and yet their salaries had to be

added to this half-year's expenditure, because they could not turn them away without giving them the proper three months' notice. (Hear, hear.) Those salaries would not appear again. Then they hoped to further reduce their expenditure by letting off the premises. They had let off £450, and during the last few days £200 more, making £650. Still they had about £800 or £1,000 to let; and when they got tenants for it all, their rental and taxes would be reduced to a very moderate sum, probably about £1,000. Amongst the advantages, he must mention the absence of law charges, which chiefly arose from bad debts. Their bad debts might be considered as nil, not being more than £250. As they had no bad debts, they had no law charges, which must be a subject of very great congratulation to them. They could not hope to be always so successful, but he believed that every bill and security they had was really worth the money put down for it. Since the last meeting they had endeavoured to get in as many of the past-due bills as they could; and they had reduced the amount to £2,888. The shareholders had probably seen in the papers the account of the case of O. and A. King, against whom they had been obliged to resort to a legal process, in consequence of their opposition to a just claim, which, however, they had succeeded in establishing. They would doubtless receive the amount in due process, which, however, was somewhat tedious, as usual in matters of law. There was also another large sum which they hoped to recover, but as they were dealing with Government, that also would be a matter of considerable time. They hoped they should reduce the amount of the past-due bills by £6,000 more, and that was all they expected, though circumstances might perhaps give it a more favourable aspect. The bills of late had been of a decidedly better character, bearing names of a more respectable class, an improvement for which they had to thank their anxious, worthy, and honest manager, Mr. Terry. (Applause.) He now came to a very delicate question, that of the call. He congratulated them and the bank on the kindness and readiness with which it had been paid. Four-fifths had already been paid up, and they had every reason to believe that very little would be left unpaid. He had very often heard that the bank was going to close, and one day after another was named as that on which they were to shut their doors. It was necessary that something should be done to remove that impression. All that they could say or all that he could say would not do it. But their intention to go on was evidenced by the payment of that call, and he now no longer heard anything about their being on the point of closing their doors. He had no doubt they would now, by good management, by economy, and by leaving sufficient means, take a position equal to any of the established banks. If they were to go on, it must be by the shareholders acceding to the wish of the directors, that calls should be paid within the time named. If the first was paid by Christmas and the other by Midsummer, he had no doubt they should be able to take the position to which the institution was entitled. (Hear, hear.) They had now reduced the branches to two. If they could be made to pay, he should recommend their continuance; but if not, the directors would have no hesitation in closing them. There were people who were anxious to do business with them, but how could that be done when the money was kept to be paid away in case of a run. They had to call in sums from many whom they knew to be respectable, because they could no longer spare it for their accommodation. He trusted they would now have peace and quietness, and that there would be nothing to disturb that peace and equanimity which was so essential to their success. The future depended on the shareholders. The directors had done their duty by

watching and reducing the expenditure, avoiding bad debts, and improving the class of customers. Let the shareholders themselves bank at the bank, and endeavour to open accounts, which he hoped they would be able to do now that they had an improved character. (Hear, hear, and laughter). They were indebted to their customers £103,000, and they had £167,000 available assets to pay them with. Did any other bank present a more responsible provision as regarded the security of the customer? (Hear, hear.) He was very unwilling to say anything in praise of the institution, but let them look at the effect recent circumstances had had on sister institutions, and he thought it was evident that this was equally safe with the others.

Mr. Cuthbert, in seconding the motion, called on the shareholders to support the institution, as he himself had done as far as it was in his power, both individually, and in conjunction with others. It was very disheartening to find that their hopes were not realised, but what was their position compared with that which they held last year? (Mr. Cuthbert here went over some of the items of the former and of the present balance-sheet.) He next gave an account of the meeting of February last, which was called by a circular, sent to most of the shareholders, but not to himself or several others whom he knew. However, some of his friends who had received them forwarded them to him, and gave him their proxies. Though the circular stated that admission would be "on production of this circular only," yet he was stopped at the door, and told he could not be admitted unless he put down his name, with his address and the number of shares he held. He did so, and his name headed the list, but when he entered the room, he found a dozen individuals there before him. He then challenged them that they must have come in surreptitiously (a laugh), and no doubt for some bad motive (hear, hear), and not one of them gave him an answer. At the hour appointed for the meeting there was a simultaneous rush at the door, and a number of shareholders entered, six-sevenths of whom did not sign their names. He was placed in the chair, and he asked if there was any one there on behalf of Messrs. Harrison and Lewis, the solicitors mentioned in the circular? Mr. Lewis presented himself, and on being asked by him (Mr. Cuthbert) who authorised him to call the meeting, said Mr. Hinds, and added that he expected Mr. Hinds at the meeting, and was surprised at not seeing him.

A Shareholder—All this is familiar to every one here; our time is valuable.

Mr. Cuthbert—It bears on our present position. There was a strong resolution passed at that meeting, and immediately there was an increase of £5,000 in our balance. (Hear, hear.) By April there was a further increase of £5,000. Does not that show what was the feeling of the public? (Hear, hear.) Mr. Cuthbert went on to say that on the 1st of May Mr. Baylis's pamphlet came out, and that had a very injurious effect on their property. It caused large sums to be drawn out. These were the reasons why they had not realised a profit. (Hear.) They had been obliged to devote all their resources to the object of maintaining their credit, instead of employing the capital profitably. It was better to sacrifice profit than credit. (Hear, hear.) The rate of discount had been as low as 2 per cent. It was 3 at the Bank, but their transactions had been at 2, at 2½ and at 2¾. Still if they could have employed those moneys they would have had a surplus, for even at 2 per cent., the amount would have produced £1,000. (Hear, hear.) All this was in order that certain lawyers might have pickings out of their pockets, for the lawyers did not care whom they ruined, so that they got fat on the substance. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

Mr. Terry (the manager) said he was right to tell them that Mr. Hinds repudiated the circular.

Mr. Cuthbert—Then it must have issued from the office of Harrison and Lewis. (Hear, hear). Mr. Lewis certainly stated that he expected Mr. Hinds, and was surprised he had not come.

Several shareholders said they had heard Mr. Hinds repudiate the circular.

Mr. Wynne said it had been understood that the auditors should audit the accounts monthly. Had they done so?

Mr. Gould (auditor) said they had, at one time, proposed to do so, and had attended for the purpose, but the manager told them there was nothing to audit, and that it really was not worth while. They had free access to the books at all times. He had the interest of the bank as much at heart as they, for he held fifteen shares himself.

Mr. Wynne was sorry to find that the auditors had not done their duty. If the governor had come to this meeting and said that he had not done his duty from day to day, what would the shareholders have said? He had no doubt that it was simply an error on the part of the auditors, but they ought to have made the monthly audit.

Mr. Austin (the second auditor) said there had been no resolution carried to the effect that there should be a monthly audit. Had that been so, there would have been some ground for saying they had not done their duty. But why should they be censured for not doing what they had never been asked to do? (Hear, hear, hear.) The circumstances were these. Having had one gigantic audit, which occupied them during a fortnight of constant labour, they on that occasion made the suggestion that they should have a monthly audit. That, however, was not found necessary, as they did not have to go over the same ground again. Their audits never had been monthly, and yet now a complaint was raised, just when there was nothing to do. Had he entertained any suspicion of the directors, or had any suspicious shareholders communicated with him, he should have examined into everything, but he had never had any suspicions; on the contrary, he had the greatest possible confidence in the directors. However, they had no objection to make the audit monthly if they liked.

The Chairman said the directors looked into the books once a month, counted the cash every Tuesday, and examined every bill. However, it was for the shareholders to say whether they wished the audit to be monthly. It would, no doubt, be a good deal of trouble, and though it was very true that the auditors were paid, yet with such men it was wholly a question of money.

Mr. Terry said if there was any blame it was to him. The auditors had themselves proposed the monthly audit for their own convenience, as there had really been nothing to audit, and so he told them. He had devoted much care and attention to the affairs of the bank, and had had an amount of anxiety greater than he had expected when he accepted office. He would not have taken office if he could have anticipated the care and anxiety he entailed. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Davis said that he had the greatest possible confidence in the manager and directors, but he really did not see the use of going on as they did. It was throwing good money after bad. It was very well to say that there would be a great increase of business if every shareholder put his money in the bank, but they would not do so, because they had no confidence. Would it not be better to wind-up and get what they could for their shares? He could not see the use of going on from day to day and from year to year without making any profit whatever.

ler asked if Mr. Davis supported the bank. (A laugh.)
-I did for some time.
rt.—And then withdrew. (A laugh).
-I withdrew because the Hertford branch was done away
orted it as long I could (hear, hear), but it was not convenient
ıe branch was done away with.
ıid the bank had been run down. (Hear, hear.) It was said
ake a profit. No, and they never would while these attacks
ade on them. (Hear, hear.) He had had an interview with a
ıo said openly that it was his intention to "Shut them up,"
eat deal of vehemence in saying it. (A laugh.) Some of the
who used to bank with them had withdrawn their accounts
ısions excited by those attacks, and he supposed they did
ng their money back again because they thought they should
(A laugh.)
ıan said there was a certain successful bank which had at one
s capital. The shareholders, however, raised an entirely new
hey were now going on most successfully. (Hear, hear.)
had the greatest possible confidence in the directors, but he
ould weigh seriously and deliberately the state of things
oceeded with the next call. He hoped they would rather
tive, and state what were their prospects before making the
ıear.) At the present moment affairs did not wear a very
ject. The amount deposited was only £103,000, and he did
ely any human skill would be sufficient to extricate them
osition as they now held. He hoped they would not go on
ıand over hand. (Hear, hear.)
an said that if he and the directors saw no reasonable pros-
s, they would be unworthy of support if they did not come
ıvow it. (Hear, hear.) But the fact was there was a profit if
was only charged with the current expenditure at the present
ıairman here repeated the explanation he had given in his
h.) They had thus already decreased the expenditure, and if
s as successful as he had been in avoiding his debts, they
rily have a profit; for with decreased expenditure they were
to have a decrease of income. They could not be any worse,
ıe amount of business or as to the rate of discount. He should
advise them to throw their property away by winding up.

confirmed the chairman's view of the case. If he were a
ıe would say "go on." He did not want them to go on for
Hear, hear.)
further conversation, the motion was put and carried unani-

ıan proposed the re-election of Mr. Hayward. He urged the
having men of wealth, who had been known for years, and
ase with Mr. Hayward. He took the opportunity of observing
s perfect unanimity amongst the directors. (Hear, hear.)
rt seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.
Bower expressed his gratification at the manner in which
n supported by the shareholders on this occasion. He said
ner in which the directors examined the accounts rendered a
absolutely useless. He reminded them of the enormous divi-
were received from some joint-stock banks, and asked them
ıtly till they had as good dividends from this. (Hear, and

laughter.) He eulogised the conduct of the directors, who, by courage, good management and perseverance had weathered a storm such as few similar institutions could have survived. (Hear, hear.) But while it was very well to be able to say that they had weathered the storm, still they would sail much better before the wind (hear, and laughter), and he hoped they would now be able to do so. Unfortunately the opposition had proceeded from those who had been officers or shareholders; the public had never been against them. They were now recovering credit; and people who used to say to him, "Bower, why don't you get out of this bank?" now say, "Well, Bower, I congratulate you on having weathered the storm; your bank will succeed." (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Wynne then proposed a resolution in favour of a monthly audit.

Mr. Gould was so far from opposing, that he would second the motion.

The Chairman said the directors would not oppose the proposition; they left it with the shareholders.

Mr. Bower, however, strongly opposed the motion as casting a slur upon the directors.

A Shareholder asked what was the custom?

Mr. Terry said the London and Westminster had no audits at all. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) The others had half-yearly audits.

Mr. Davis inquired whether the directors had considered the act now before Parliament on the subject of limited liability, and whether they intended to avail themselves of it?

The Chairman said they would watch the signs of the times, and see how the matter was taken up by others. It was his opinion that the banks generally would not change their system, for if they did they would lose their business. At all events, they could only make the change with the consent of the shareholders, and if they thought that the shareholders would be benefited by it, they would submit their views to them.

The resolution for a monthly audit was then put and negatived, only two hands being held up in its favour.

Mr. Gould was re-elected as auditor, and Mr. Hopwood was appointed an additional auditor.

Mr. Davis created some amusement by proposing the "Health of the Governor and Directors." He corrected himself by saying a "vote of thanks," which was seconded by Mr. French, and carried.

Mr. Hayward, in returning thanks for his re-election, expressed his anxiety to see a few men of high standing added to the board. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said the directors were deeply obliged to the shareholders for the expression of confidence they had given at a meeting which was called for a directly contrary purpose and at which they (the directors) could not be present. (Hear.)

A Shareholder asked how Mr. Baylis came to know so much of their affairs.

The Chairman—We have no secrets. Every one knows or may know as much about the bank as we do. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Bower proposed a vote of thanks to the manager, which was carried, and the meeting separated.

THE CITY BANK.

THE half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders in this bank was held on the 20th of July, at the London Tavern; Sir Robert Walter Carden (the chairman of the board of directors) in the chair.

The Secretary read the following report and statement of accounts :—

"The half-yearly accounts, which the directors have now the satisfaction to lay before the shareholders, show that, after paying the whole of the current expenses of the establishment, providing for all bad and doubtful debts, and allowing for rebate on bills discounted not yet due, there remains for distribution the sum of £16,591 10*s.* 6*d.*, which they have decided upon appropriating as follows, viz. :—

To the payment of the usual dividend, at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum, free of income tax	£7,500	0	0
To ditto of a bonus of 15*s.* per share, also free of income tax	4,500	0	0
To the transfer to the "reserve fund," thereby increasing that fund to £30,000	2,000	0	0
To the credit of profit and loss "new account," the balance	2,591	10	6

"The directors have to inform the proprietors that, the vacancies in the direction occasioned by the decease of their much esteemed colleagues, Mr. Samuel Grimsdell and Mr. William Hackblock, have been filled, by the election of Henry Vigurs East and Mr. John Hackblock, subject to the confirmation of this meeting. The gentlemen who retire from the direction by rotation on this occasion are Mr. Andrew Lawrie, Mr. Jonathan Thorp, and Mr. John Vanner, who offer themselves for re-election. The dividend and bonus will be payable on and after Monday, the 26th inst.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS, JUNE 30, 1858.

Dr.

To capital paid-up, viz., £50 per share on 6,000 shares ...				£300,000	0 0
Amount of reserved fund				28,000	0 0
Amount due by the bank on current and deposit accounts				1,252,250	13 2
Profit and loss for the balance of that account, viz.—					
Surplus profit brought forward from last half-year	£4,228	5	6		
Since added	27,541	8	2		
				31,769	13 8
				£1,612,020	6 10

Cr.

By Exchequer Bills and East India Bonds	222,161	4	7
Bills discounted, loans, &c.	1,243,026	16	5
Building, furniture, &c	29,990	7	1
Cash in hand, at Bank of England, and at call ...	116,841	18	9
	£1,612,020	6	10

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.

To current expenses, including salaries, rent, stationery, directors' remuneration, proportion of building expenses, allowance for bad debts, income tax, &c.	£11,836	6	6
To amount carried to profit and loss, new account, being rebate on bills discounted, not yet due	3,341	16	6
To amount transferred to the reserved fund in addition to the £28,000 already at the credit of that account ...	2,000	0	0
Carried forward	£17,178	3	0

Brought forward	£	17,178	3 0
To dividend account for the payment of a dividend at the rate of £5 per centum per annum upon £300,000 amount of paid-up capital upon 6,000 shares		7,500	0 0
To bonus of 15*s.* per share on 6,000 shares		4,500	0 0
To undivided profit transferred to profit and loss new account		2,591	10 6
		£31,769	13 8

Cr.

By balance brought down, viz.—			
Surplus profit brought forward from last half-year	£4,228	5 6	
Since added	27,541	8 2	
		£31,769	13 8

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, congratulated the proprietors on the steady progress which the bank had made from its commencement. He felt that the accounts must be satisfactory to all, and he did not think it necessary for him to trouble them with any lengthened remarks. He should be happy to give them any information which they might need. They had arrived at the end of the financial year, and he thought that the declaration of the 6½ per cent. dividend and bonus was a happy result of the year's exertions. They had provided for everything: £1,000 had been paid off the building fund, £2,000 had been added to the reserve fund, which now stood at £30,000, and which was a good guarantee, considering they were only three years old, to increase the confidence of the public in the bank. He had compared this with other joint-stock banks, yet not the oldest had been able to increase the dividend above five per cent. for five years. Seeing that in three years there had been a dividend of 6½ declared, with every chance of an increase, he thought the position of this bank was most satisfactory. In conclusion, he moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. Camroux seconded the motion.

The Chairman, in reply to Mr. Brushfield (in explanation of the £1,000 relative to the building expenses) said it was proposed to lay aside £500 every half-year towards paying the building expenses.

Mr. Brushfield apologised for introducing a subject which he knew had no connection with the present half-year; but as they would not assemble again for six months, and as there had been some conversation about the matter out of doors, he thought it right to put a question to the chairman. He referred to the case of Skeen and Freeman, to whom it was said advances to the extent of £10,000 had been made. He should like to know something about the matter, if the directors had no reason for withholding the information.

The Chairman said so far from wishing to withhold any information, the directors had the great pleasure in laying everything before the shareholders, not only on that subject, but upon every other. It was true that the bank had made advances to the parties mentioned upon certain warrants but they held security for the whole amount advanced. There were some bills, amounting in the aggregate to between £600 and £700, which were very doubtful; but in order to meet any emergency that might arise they had laid aside £1,000 during the present half-year, so that

neither in the present nor the next half-year would the shareholders in any way be affected. Of course it was a portion of the business of the bank to make such advances, and in the ordinary course of events they could not expect to be entirely free from contingencies of the kind.

Mr. Brushfield said the explanation was very satisfactory, and

Mr. White (the manager), intimated that the amount advanced did not reach £10,000.

The report was then unanimously adopted.

The Chairman then moved that the dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 15*s.* per share payable on and after Monday the 26th inst., be declared.

This was agreed to, and the retiring directors and auditors having been re-elected, various votes of thanks were passed and responded to.

The chairman, in replying to a complimentary vote, again referred to the satisfactory state of the bank, and reminded the shareholders that its success did not depend solely upon the directors. There was a large body of shareholders, and he regretted to find they did not all keep their accounts at the City Bank. No doubt they had friendships at other banks, but when they were requested to deposit elsewhere they ought to say, "We are our own bankers." He trusted, therefore, that those who at the present time kept their accounts at the City Bank would bring a friend, and those who did not would open an account as soon as possible. (Hear, hear.)

The proceedings then terminated.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF LONDON.

The half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders in this bank was held at the house in Lothbury, on the 20th July, for the reception of the report, and to declare a dividend, Mr. Mark Hunter (chairman of the board of directors) presiding.

The secretary read the following report and statement of accounts:—

The balance-sheet for the half-year ending 30th June last, which the directors have now to place before the shareholders, shows a net profit (including £2,304 1*s.* 8*d.* undivided on the 31st of December, 1857) of £14,019 8*s.*, after deducting all expenses, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts. The directors have, therefore, determined to declare a dividend at the rate of £6 per cent. per annum, payable on and after the 2nd of August next. The sum of £3,627 19*s.* 9*d.* is required for rebate on current bills not yet due, and there will then remain £1,391 8*s.* 3*d.* to be carried forward to the next half-year. In compliance with the provisions of the deed of settlement, the following directors, viz.:—Mark Hunter, Esq., Sir Joseph Paxton, M.P.; and William Cooper, Esq., retire from office, but being eligible, offer themselves as candidates for re-election.

Balance-sheet to 30th June, 1858.

Dr.					
Capital subscribed	£1,500,000	0	0		
Capital paid-up, £20 each on 15,000 shares				£300,000	0 0
Guarantee fund				75,000	0 0
Balance due to the customers of the bank				935,081	2 2
Carried forward ...				£1,310,081	2 2

Brought forward ...			£1,310,081	2 2
Balance of undivided profits, 31st December, 1857	2,304	1 8		
Net profit for the half-year ending June 30, 1858	11,715	6 4		
			14,019	8 0
			£1,324,100	10 2

Cr.

Cash in the bank and at call at the Bank of England, Exchequer bills, India bonds and Consols	£256,948 10 9
Bills discounted, loans on stock, and other securities ...	1,064,151 19 5
Strong room, fittings, and furniture	3,000 0 0
	£1,324,100 10 2

Dr.

Dividend at the rate of £6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending 30th June, 1858	£9,000 0 0
Rebate of interest on current bills carried to profit and loss new account...	3,627 19 9
Balance carried to next half-year	1,391 8 3
	£14,019 8 0

Cr.

Balance brought down	£14,019 8 0

The Chairman said that, in rising to move the adoption of the report which had just been read, he had but a very few remarks to make to the shareholders assembled. He had no doubt that they were all aware that the six months ending the 30th of June last had been a period of the greatest depression, affecting all classes of the commercial community more or less. They all knew likewise that the rate of interest at the Bank had been 3 per cent., and in Lombard-street it had been less. With such a state of things as that, it could not be a matter of very great surprise that they had only been able to do a comparatively small amount of business. He felt, however, that there was every indication of a great improvement taking place in commercial business, and there could be no doubt but that their bank would also improve its condition. At the previous meeting in January last, and which was their first half-yearly meeting, they having previously been held only annually, he stated to the proprietors that the bank was recovering in the amount of its balances, and that had turned out to some extent to be true, for they were now much larger than they were at the end of December of last year. He trusted that things would improve, and that their bank would be in a better position; and, in conclusion, he moved that the report be received and adopted, and circulated amongst the shareholders; having previously intimated his willingness to give every information to shareholders on any subject upon which they might wish to ask questions.

Mr. Stokes seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously without any discussion.

The Chairman then declared a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending the 30th of June last.

Mr. Brown then proposed that the retiring directors—Mr. Mark Hunter, Sir Joseph Paxton, M.P., and Mr. Cooper—be re-elected.

Mr. Hodgkinson briefly seconded the motion.

Mr. James Cox, before the question was put, wished to know whether there had been any reduction in the number of directors since the previous meeting?

The Chairman said that since the last meeting the number of directors had been reduced from sixteen to fourteen; and as the gentlemen continued to retire or die the vacancies would not be filled up until the total number of twelve was obtained, that being the number to which it was proposed to reduced the direction. It was felt that was the best course to adopt—to refrain from filling up the vacancies, as it would not do well to turn gentlemen out of their seats. At the previous meeting it was suggested that the number should be reduced to twelve, and therefore the two next vacancies at the board would not be filled up.

Mr. Cox said he was very glad that the reduction had been made, for some retrenchment was required, as the affairs of the bank, instead of flourishing, were falling off, and he believed the shares were now only at par. He thought, under these circumstances, that the strictest economy should be exercised; and he hoped that in every branch and department of the bank, the directors would turn their attention to retrenching the expenditure, not only to decrease the expenses, but with a view to increase the profits.

Mr. Hodgkinson denied that anything existed to show that the affairs of the bank were getting worse and worse, as alleged by the last speaker, and said that he would much rather receive this honest 3 per cent. for the half-year, than to have a small bonus added to it. He felt sure the directors would see to the reduction of the expenditure where possible, but at the same time he wished to express an opinion that if the accounts had been made out a little more explicit the proprietors would have been more satisfied.

The Chairman said the directors really were endeavouring to economise as much as possible, but they must remember that they were doing a business of a million or a million and a half; still, however, the directors were trying to fit the expense to the business. Although they had not, however, so large a business as might be wished, yet he had no doubt things were improving, and he might inform them that the balances had increased £100,000 since the 31st of December last. (Hear.)

The retiring directors were then unanimously re-elected.

Mr. William Cooper (one of those gentlemen), in briefly acknowledging the renewed expression of their confidence, said they had already been told that the number of directors had been reduced from 16 to 14, and when any accident occurred by death or resignation the vacancies would not be filled up till the number was reduced to 12. His business laid chiefly at the West-end Branch, in Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, and there, he assured them, it had been his constant study to economise as much as possible, and to avoid incurring bad debts. He was happy to inform them that, during the whole of last year—and that, be it remembered, included the great period of depression—there was not one shilling of bad debts incurred at Henrietta Street branch. (Hear, hear,) In fact he had often been told that he was too stringent; but he assured the proprietors that while he had anything to do with the bank, its moneys should not be squandered away on doubtful securities. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman briefly returned thanks on his re-election, and in doing so said there had had been some mention made of the name of Sir Joseph Paxton, who was not present; but he assured the proprietors that there was not a director at that board who brought more business to the bank than did Sir Joseph Paxton, who although he could not give them much of his personal attendance, yet he gave the bank the whole of his valuable interest. (Hear.)

Mr. George Rennie wished to know whether the directors entertained any idea of re-constituting the bank under the Limited Liability Act?

The Chairman said the subject, which had been mentioned at previous meetings, had not been forgotten by the board of directors. The bill, which had passed the House of Commons, would no doubt pass the House of Lords; and it would then be for the directors further to consider the matter. He should think that any new bank being established would be better on the limited liability principle, but it was a grave matter to alter that which had already been in practice so long in an old establishment. He had tried to ventilate the opinions of parties connected with other joint-stock banks, and he had found that almost all were against it. He felt that in a new establishment it might be adopted with benefit, as a better class of shareholders would be had, although he did not think it would be as well for the customers. He had only further to add, that the question had not escaped the attention of the directors; but he repeated that there was great diversity of opinion amongst the directors of other joint-stock banks as to the advisability of adopting the principle; but should some of the leading banks adopt the principle of the bill, the directors of this might feel inclined to do the same.

Mr. Hodgkinson, looking at the condition of the bank, did not think that the principle being adopted would make much difference.

Mr. Rennie thought the directors should be guided by their own opinions, and not follow the course of larger banks. He trusted that the matter would not be lost sight of by the directors.

The Chairman said the directors were very glad to take the opinion of the shareholders on the question, which, he again repeated, should not be lost sight of.

A cordial vote of thanks was then passed to the chairman and directors, and also to the manager; and the same having been briefly acknowledged, the meeting separated.

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.

The half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders in this company was held at the bank in Lothbury, on the 21st July, Mr. Alderman Salomons, chairman of the board of directors, presided.

The secretary read the following report and statement of accounts:—

"The directors have the pleasure to report that after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, paying the income tax, and setting apart £2,000 towards the new buildings in Lothbury, Bloomsbury, Southwark, and Temple-bar, the net profits of the bank for the last half-year amount to £93,882 5*s.* 7*d.* The sum of 2,578 11*s.* 5*d.* remaining from the profits of the preceding half-year has been added to the surplus fund, and also the interest at the rate of 5 per cent., making that fund amount at present to £165,204 9*s.* 8*d.* The directors now declare a dividend to the shareholders at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 5 per cent. on the paid-up capital. After these payments are made there will remain

the sum of £9,852 18*s.* 1*d.* to be carried to the credit of profit and loss account for the current half-year.

London and Westminster Bank, June 30, 1858.

Dr.			
To proprietors for paid-up capital	£1,000,000	0	0
Amount due by the bank on deposits, circular notes, &c.	12,443,745	14	9
Rest or surplus fund	158,596	10	9
Balance of profit and loss account, 1857	2,578	11	5
Net profits of the past half-year.	93,882	5	7
	£13,698,803	2	6

Cr.			
By Government Stock, Exchequer Bills, Exchequer Bonds, and India Bonds	£1,788,767	3	1
Other securities, including bills discounted, loans to customers, &c.	11,023,387	3	6
Cash in hand	886,648	15	11
	£13,698,803	2	6

Dr. PROFIT AND LOSS.

To total expenditure of the seven establishments, including rent, taxes, salaries, stationery, &c.	£29,480	16	0
To amount set apart towards the new buildings in Lothbury, Bloomsbury, Southwark, and Temple Bar ...	2,000	0	0
To transfer to rest or surplus fund of balance of the unappropriated profits, 31st Dec., 1857	2,578	11	5
To interest on rest or surplus fund, at 5 per cent. ...	4,029	7	6
To payment of the dividend now declared, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, for the last half-year on the paid-up capital of £1,000,000	30,000	0	0
To bonus of 5 per cent. on the capital	50,000	0	0
To balance of profit and loss account	9,852	18	1
	£127,921	13	6

Cr.			
By balance of profit and loss account, 1857	£2,578	11	5
By gross profits of the last half-year, after paying the income tax, and making provision for all bad and doubtful debts	125,343	1	7
	£127,921	13	6

Dr. REST OR SURPLUS FUND.

Present amount	£165,204	9	6

Cr.

Amount on Jan. 1, 1858	£185,596	10	9
Unappropriated balance of profit and loss account on Dec. 31, 1857	2,578	11	5
By interest at 5 per cent. per annum	4,029	7	6
	£165,204	9	8

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, congratulated the shareholders upon the prosperous condition of the establishment. By looking at the accounts it would be seen that the deposits, amounting to over £12,443,000, were somewhat less than in the last half-year, but were higher than in 1856. The diminution had taken place entirely on deposits at interest, the low rate of interest the directors had felt justified in paying having induced some persons to withdraw their deposits; but the business of the other departments of the bank had considerably increased. (Hear, hear.) The dividend to be declared was 8 per cent. for the half-year, being 16 per cent. for the whole year. In addition to being able to divide the large sum he had mentioned, the directors had carried over £10,000 to the next half-year, to be then added to dividend if thought advisable. It was satisfactory to know that the whole of the dividend had resulted from the ordinary business of the bank; nothing had been obtained from extraordinary sources to swell the amount, and he believed the next dividend would be as much as that now declared. The chairman then referred to the gross misconduct of one of their clerks, and remarked that it gave him great pleasure in being able to say that it was the first instance of such a case having arisen. They had eighty clerks, all of whom he was happy to say were men of integrity and honour, and could not be surpassed in any similar establishment in the kingdom; and his observations applied equally to the whole staff of 180 persons. (Hear, hear.) He then reminded the meeting that when they last assembled, six months back, a cloud was enveloping the whole commerce of the country. It was not felt in individual cases—it was almost universal. At that time the proprietors were informed that there was a suspense account of bills amounting to £50,000, and that £10,000 had been reserved to meet any contingencies that might arise on those suspended bills, but at the same time it was stated that in all probability little if any loss would be sustained, although it was wise to provide for any contingencies. He was happy to say that the best expectations of the directors had been realised. When the present accounts were prepared, what was once £50,000 stood at £20,000; and that amount had since been further reduced to under £18,000 (Hear, hear); and he was not at all prepared to say that the whole of the £10,000 would not come back to profit and loss; in which case, should the dividend continue to increase as at present, he hoped the proprietors would allow it to go to increase the reserve fund. In conclusion, he referred to the fact that the bank had now been established twenty-five years, and had become deeply rooted in the confidence and estimation of the public. It had an extensive reserve fund, which would add to its stability and increase the value of their shares in the market. (Hear.)

Sir Charles Burrell seconded the motion for the adoption of the report.

Mr. Moxon (who had sent a circular to all the shareholders, containing his objections to certain points in the management of the bank) then proceeded, amidst considerable interruption and impatience, to support the statements contained in the document referred to, and concluded by moving

a series of resolutions relative to the appointment of auditors, the number of directors, the mode of their election, and the transference of a certain amount of consols into other names.

The resolutions were not, however, seconded, and Mr. Moxton attempted further to address the meeting, but ineffectually.

The Chairman having at great length answered the objections of Mr. Moxton, the report was adopted with only one dissentient.

Sir Charles Burrell, as one of the oldest shareholders, then moved a vote of thanks to the directors for their services during the past year. He had the greatest satisfaction in the board, whom he knew to be a body of honourable men, who could not be surpassed in any direction.

Mr. Josiah Roles then seconded the motion, and after some personal conversation between Mr. Moxton and the directors the motion was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Roles then moved a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Mr. Tite, M.P., in seconding the motion, referred to the Bank Act Committee, who had recently presented their report. When that committee was appointed, some anxiety was expressed that steps would be taken which might affect the interest of shareholders in joint-stock banks. He was happy to say, in consequence of the important and clear evidence given by their chairman, nothing had been done to prejudice joint-stock banks; and so highly were the services rendered by Mr. Alderman Salomons esteemed, that a special vote of thanks had been passed in his favour.

The vote was carried by acclamation.

The Chairman replied, and the proceedings terminated.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE fifteenth half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of New South Wales was held at the banking-house, in Sydney, on Wednesday, the 28th day of April last; Sir Daniel Cooper presided.

The following report of the directors was read and adopted unanimously:—

The directors have pleasure in again meeting the proprietors, and in laying before them the balance-sheet of the bank for the half-year ended the 31st ult.

The undivided balance of last half-year was				£5,104	6 5
To which are to be added the net profits, after deducting rebate on current bills, allowing for interest due on deposits, paying all expenses of management, and providing for bad and doubtful debts				59,454	7 4
Leaving for distribution				64,558	13 9
Which the directors recommend to be applied as follows:—					
To payment of a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum	£50,000	0	0		
To increase of reserve fund	9,605	4	7		
To balance carried to profit and loss, "New Account"	4,953	9	2		
				£64,558	13 9

With the above increase to the reserve fund, and the sum of £394 15*s.* 5*d.*

recovered from debts previously written off as bad, this fund will amount to £160,000.

Since the last half-yearly meeting the directors have established a branch at Deniliquin, on the Edward River. In so doing, they have acted upon the power vested in them by the proprietors, and deem it desirable that authority to establish such further branches or agencies as may be considered expedient should be continued to them.

The vacant seat in the direction, caused by the resignation of George Thorne, Esq., on his departure for Europe, has been temporarily filled by J. S. Willis, Esq., under appointment from the board of directors, and it becomes the duty of the present meeting to confirm such appointment, he being the only proprietor who has given the required notice of being a candidate for the office.

The dividend will be payable at the head office on and after the 29th instant, and at the branches on receipt of advice.

For and on behalf of the board of directors,

DANIEL COOPER, President.

Aggregate balance-sheet of the Bank of New South Wales, March 31st, 1858 (including London Branch) to 31st December, 1857.

Dr.			
To Bank stock	£500,000	0	0
Notes in circulation	563,271	0	0
Bills payable	1,305,679	7	11
Deposits and other liabilities	2,327,830	7	11
Reserve fund	150,394	15	5
Profit and loss	81,914	14	2
	£4,929,090	5	5

Cr.			
By coin and cash balances	£911,682	18	1
Bullion in hand, and in transit to London Branch, at 31st March, 1858	1,026,936	4	2
Government securities	86,022	5	0
Notes of other banks	15,862	0	0
Bank premises	48,167	3	8
Bills discounted and other debts due to the bank	2,733,551	4	5
Insurance account	3,668	10	1
Investment in Government debentures, on account of reserve fund	103,200	0	0
	£4,929,090	5	5

Dr. PROFIT AND LOSS.

1858, March 31.			
To rebate on bills discounted, not due at this date	£17,356	0	5
Dividend for the half-year, at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum.	50,000	0	0
Reserve fund	9,605	4	7
Balance carried forward to profit and loss "new account"	4,953	9	2
	£81,914	14	2

Cr.

1857, Sept. 30.					
By amount from last account	£5,104	6	5		
1858, March 31.					
By profits of half-year, ending this day	76,810	7	9		
				81,914	14 2
				£81,914	14 2

Dr. RESERVE FUND.

1858, March 31.			
To balance	160,000	0	0
	£160,000	0	0

Cr.

1857, Sept. 30.			
By amount from last account	150,000	0	0
1858, March 31.			
By sundry recoveries from bad debts	394	15	5
Amount from "profit and loss"...	9,605	4	7
Audited April 26, 1858.	£160,000	0	0

E. C. WEEKES, THOS. WALKER, } Auditors.

Mr. J. S. Willis was elected to the seat in the direction vacated by the resignation of Mr. George Thorne on a visit to England.

SHROPSHIRE BANKING COMPANY.

THE twenty-second annual meeting of the above company was held on the 20th July, at the bank, Shiffnal; Mr. Henry Dickinson, in the chair. The following is a copy of the report of the directors presented to the meeting:—

"Your directors have much pleasure in meeting the proprietors on the present occasion, and in reporting on the progress of the bank.

"The net profits for the year amount to £4,091 16*s.* 1*d.* To this sum has been added £1,000 13*s.* 9*d.*, the balance from last year, making a total of £5,092 9*s.* 10*d.*; from which amount has been taken £2,025, being £3 per share upon the 675 shares allotted to the directors in consideration of the relinquishment of their loans, in conformity with the resolution of last year's meeting. This leaves an available balance of £3,067 9*s.* 10*d.*, which the directors place at the disposal of the meeting, and recommend the payment of, 3*s.* per share, being 5 per cent. on the present capital of the company, and leaves a balance of £817 9*s.* 10*d.* From this they propose to take £750 to place to a reserve fund, and to carry the balance, £67 9*s.* 10*d.* to next year's profit and loss account.

"The present account stands as follows :—

Net profit for the year	£1,491	16	1
Balance from last year	1,440	13	9
	£3,932	9	10
Deduct £2,425, being £3 per share on 675 shares allotted to the Directors	2,425	0	0
Balance	£3,507	9	10

"The accounts of the bank have been audited by Mr. Banks."

The Chairman, after some congratulatory remarks, moved the adoption of the report, which was passed unanimously.

The two retiring directors were then re-elected: the present board therefore consists of the following gentlemen. Messrs. Henry Dickinson, chairman; Robert Fisher, deputy-chairman; Thomas Wood, William Wyley, John Williams, and Thomas Graham.

Communications.

To the Editor of the "Bankers' Magazine."

CHEQUE OF MARRIED WOMAN.

SIR,—Can you inform me whether, in the case of a married woman having a separate banking account, and her husband presenting a cheque drawn by her, payable to "self," with the words "or bearer" erased, such cheque would be exempt from stamp duty under the new act?

I imagine that in such a case the presentation of a cheque by the husband is legally tantamount to presentation by the wife.

Yours obediently,

A BANKER.

London, July 14th, 1858.

[We think not. The husband and wife may be treated as quite distinct persons as regards the wife's separate property, and in this case, we think, they ought to be so regarded. At all events, what consideration can the penny be in comparison with the risk of an irregularity?]

CHEQUES.

SIR,—In your number for August, will you favour me with an answer to the following queries;—

1. If a customer draw a cheque on a banker in this town, and request the amount to be paid to the account of Brown and Co. at the London and Westminster Bank, does such cheque require a stamp?

2. Does a cheque drawn by the paymaster of a regiment require a stamp?

3. You say, in your June number, that a cheque under 20*s.* is illegal. Can you reconcile that statement with 17 & 18 Victoria, cap. 83, clause 9?

Your obedient servant,

A SUBSCRIBER.

Lewes, July 17th, 1858.

[1. Yes.
2. We believe cheques drawn on certain departments of the Government are exempt, but we do not think such exemption applies to an ordinary banker.
3. It is still illegal to draw a cheque for less than 20*s*. See *Grant on Banking*, p. 21. The 17 & 18 Vict., c. 83, s. 9., does not have the effect supposed.]

CROSSED CHEQUES.

Sir,—There has been so much legislation recently respecting "cheques on bankers," the subject has become somewhat complicated, and indeed in the instance of the 1*d*. stamp it requires more study to understand the "exemptions" than the act itself. A difficulty has presented itself to my mind in the act subsequently passed relating to the "crossing of cheques on bankers" (which I may be permitted to observe I consider a troublesome and useless piece of legislation). The difficulty I allude to is as to liability of a banker, in the event of his paying a cheque across the counter which apparently does not bear any crossing with the name of a banker, or with two transverse lines, but which the drawer subsequently states did bear such special crossing when he issued it.

Bankers, to protect themselves, should really require their customers to send them advice lists of such crossed cheques, as they may issue and decline to pay them unless so authenticated.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

A Subscriber.

Dublin, 12th July, 1858.

[The point referred to arose in the case of *Simmonds* v. *Taylor*, 27 Law Journal (C.P.) 45, and it was there held and afterwards affirmed in error that the banker was not liable.]

Notes of the Month.

Receipt and Draft Stamps.—In the quarter ending March 31, 1858, there were 19,304,823 penny receipt and draft stamps sold in the United Kingdom, yielding a revenue of £80,436. The revenue for the quarter has never been lower than £62,175, nor higher than £83,410.

Letters of Credit Bill.—A bill of Mr. Horsfall, Mr. K. Hodgson, and Mr. Bovill makes letters of credit transferable and liable to be enforced and sued upon in a Court of law or equity, as in the case of a promissory note payable to order.

Lord John Russell's Bankruptcy Bill.—A bill has been introduced in the House of Commons by Lord John Russell which covers 158 pages of paper, and contains 461 clauses. The following are the principal alterations proposed:—1. The distinction between traders and non-traders is to be done away with. 2. The county court judges are to have the powers of commissioners in bankruptcy, but their duties are not defined. 3. The messengers and brokers are to be done away with, and their duties performed by the official

assignees and others. 4. The official assignee is to be paid by salary for all such duties as he performs in that capacity, but he may be appointed creditors' assignee if the creditors be so minded. 5. The creditors are to appoint an assignee of their own, and fix his remuneration, and they are also to appoint three inspectors to overlook and advise him. 6. The distinction in classification of certificates is abolished, but the commissioner is still to retain the power to deprive a debtor of a certificate, to suspend it, or to annex conditions to it. 7. Estates may still be wound up under deeds of arrangement; but this mode seems only applicable where all the creditors reside in Great Britain. 8. Bankrupts, for certain offences, are liable to imprisonment, and the commissioner has the powers of a magistrate to enable him to commit them for trial.

THE DISTRICT BANK, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Vice-Chancellor Kindersley has made an order requiring payment from such of the shareholders of the Northumberland and Durham District Bank as have not met the call made by the Court, the payments to be made by the 20th of July. A very large sum is yet due on the call. The calls of eight individuals in the list alone amount in the aggregate to upwards of £450,000.

THE EXPORT OF BULLION.—The following is a statement of the export of bullion from London during the six months ending the 30th of June :—

—	Gold.	Silver.	Total.	Total of corresponding period last year.
India, including Ceylon ...	£44,540	£2,228,080	£2,272,620	£5,639,910
China and the Straits	370	702,230	702,600	3,166,180
Cape of Good Hope and Mauritius	183,840	25,650	209,490	262,500
Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand	—	—	—	—
United States	252,630	9,000	261,630	—
Hamburgh, Belgium, and Rotterdam	818,600	1,025,700	1,844,300	411,500
France, *viâ* Boulogne, Calais, and Dunkirk	5,181,440	216,700	5,398,140	1,985,000
Peninsula and Mediterranean, with Constantinople ...	81,480	10,100	91,580	403,300
West Indies	10,280	62,230	72,510	433,500
Brazils	126,320	56,790	183,110	579,600
Africa	720	500	1,220	24,900
Total	6.700,220	£4.336,980	11,037.200	12,906.390

DIVIDENDS UNDER FAILED FIRMS.

AT a meeting on 30th July, of the inspectors of the estate of Messrs. Bennoch, Twentyman, and Rigg, who failed on the 9th of November last, as silk agents, it was resolved, in accordance with the authority granted by the creditors for a composition to be entertained as soon as 6*s.* in the pound had been paid, to accept a final distribution of 9*d.* in the pound, on condition that it is effected before the 1st of December next.

The inspectors of the estate of Messrs. Sanderson, Sandeman and Co., have issued a circular announcing a further distribution of 2*s*. 6*d*. in the pound. A first dividend of 6*s*. 8*d*. is also payable this week to the creditors of Messrs. Maitland, Ewing and Co., who suspended on the 3rd of April.

A further dividend of 1*s*. (making 13*s*. 6*d*. in the pound) is announced by the official manager of the Royal British Bank, and the use of the Rotunda at the Bank of England having been granted to Mr. Harding for the 10th, 11th, and 12th of August, the payment will be made there on those days.

A first dividend of about 3*s*. in the pound has been officially announced through the *Gazette*, under the estate of Messrs. Oak and Snow, of Blandford Forum, bankers.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following are the mercantile suspensions during the month:—

June.—Messrs. Skeen and Freeman, London, timber brokers.

July.—M. Domingo Ferreira, Rio Janeiro, merchant.
Messrs. Larpent, Saunders and Co., Calcutta, merchants.
Messrs. Astley, Wilson and Co., Rio Janeiro, merchants.
Mr. Charles Snewin, London, timber merchant.
Mr. E. A. Skeen, timber merchant, London.
Messrs. Astley, Williams and Co., Liverpool, merchants.
Messrs. Cox, Brothers, Liverpool, iron merchants.
Mr. W. Jeffries, Dudley, iron manufacturer.
Messrs. Seaman and Keen, London, silk trade.

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

June 30.—Failure of Messrs. Skeen and Freeman, timber brokers, with liabilities amounting to £34,000. At a meeting of creditors, it was decided that the estate should be administered in bankruptcy.

30.—Intelligence received of the suspension of M. Domingo Ferreira, merchant, of Rio Janeiro, with liabilities said to reach £700,000.

July 1.—Failure announced of Messrs. Larpent, Saunders and Co., merchants, of Calcutta, for £75,000.

2.—Announcement of the failure of Messrs. Astley, Wilson and Co., of Rio Janeiro. Debts estimated at £150,000.

9.—Suspension of Mr. Charles Snewin, timber merchant. Liabilities £24,000.

11.—Stoppage of Messrs. Astley, Williams and Co., of Liverpool, merchants. Liabilities supposed to reach about £150,000.

12.—Intelligence received of a dreadful massacre at Jeddah of the whole of the Christian population by the Mahommedans.

14.—Failure of Messrs. Cox, Brothers, iron merchants, Liverpool. Amount of liabilities about £50,000.

23.—Suspension of Mr. W. Jeffries, Hart's Hill Iron Works, Brierly Hill, Dudley. Liabilities £10,000.

26.—Baron Lionel de Rothschild took the oaths and his seat in the House of Commons.

26.—Failure of Messrs. Seaman and Keen in the silk trade.

BANKING OBITUARY.

On the 4th of July, at his residence, Nelson Square, Blackfriars, Mr. Robert Mathers, upwards of fifty-five years in the Bank of England, and many years Principal of the Chancery Office, aged 74.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 1858.

The state of financial and mercantile affairs during the past month has not been extraordinary. Favourable weather for the progress of the crops, and an easy money market, have contributed to restore confidence, notwithstanding attempts to distort the views of the Emperor Napoleon through the completion of Cherbourg. Arrivals of gold, both from America and Australia, have at the same time assisted to improve the condition of the markets, which, though suffering from the ordinary inactivity of business experienced at this period, have been in a better situation, more particularly during the last week. It is quite certain that the abundance of unemployed capital must eventually find some vent, since the present rate of accumulation cannot proceed without producing a strong effect in one quarter or another. The amelioration which has taken place in the appearance of foreign politics, the subsidence of the American difficulty, and the expectation that the forthcoming demonstration on the coast of France will be attended with the most satisfactory results, will assist to reanimate the various departments, and to create greater buoyancy in the stock markets. The Bank rate of discount is still 3 per cent., but in Lombard-street and at the joint-stock banks first-class paper can freely be negociated at 2½ and 2¼ per cent. though the average terms are 2¼ and 2½. So plentiful is accommodation in the Stock Exchange, that advances can be obtained on English securities at 1 to 1¼ per cent. If trade were suddenly to improve, and the demand for money to be stimulated through this source, the state of things would rapidly alter, and the expansion prove of a most important character.

In the English Funds the fluctuation has been about one and a quarter per cent., with an actual rise of about three-eighths. Business has been influenced by a variety of circumstances, and the speculators after pressing sales for a fall, and carrying prices down to 94⅛, have since operated in the contrary direction. The payment of the dividends and the investments of the public have in some measure restored a good and favourable tone to business. Exchequer bills have slightly advanced through the increased ease in the money market.

Business in the foreign stock market this month has not been very active, and the operators have exhibited a disposition to limit transactions. This arises from the indisposition to speculate, but the tendency has latterly been rather in such a direction. All descriptions have comparatively improved, but after all the rise has not been important. Within the last day or two prices have again relapsed, though not to any great extent. The half monthly differences were very fairly met.

The railway market has fluctuated considerably, but the transactions have been principally on the favourable side. The easiness of money and the more encouraging prospects of general financial affairs have created

partial confidence, still it is feared the result of the half-yearly accounts will prove discouraging. Traffics have not recovered for many weeks past, and although the summer season has set in, it has not produced the usual beneficial consequences. Meanwhile there is not any activity, and prices after having reached a certain point, are again receding. The late fortnightly settlement has been adjusted with scarcely any difficulty.

Joint-stock bank shares are better, the character of the reports being favourable, and consequently an advance has taken place in prices. Some speculations for the fall had been entered into, but the results of the meetings being contrary to what was anticipated, two dealers have failed through their inability to discharge losses. The market for the whole of these securities is now stronger than it was at the close of last month.

The following are the fluctuations in the English and Foreign Stocks and Railway Shares during the month just concluded.—

	Price on June 29.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on July 27.
ENGLISH FUNDS.				
Consols	95¼	96¼	94⅞	95⅝-95¾
Exchequer bills	37*s.* pm.	39*s.* pm.	30*s.* pm.	36*s.* to 39*s.* pm.
FOREIGN STOCKS.				
Brazilian	102	103⅜	101	103
Buenos Ayres	83½	83½	80	80
Chilian	105	106	104½	104½
Dutch, 2½ per cent.	67	67	65⅜	66½
Mexican	19⅞	20	19⅛	19⅜
Peruvian, 4½ per cent.	87	90	87	89½
Russian	—	113	112	113
Spanish	45	45	43½	43⅞
Turkish, 6 per cent.	94⅜	96	94½	95½
Ditto, 4 per cent.	104⅛	105¾	104	105¾
RAILWAY SHARES.				
Brighton	107⅜	110	106½	109
Caledonian	73⅜	79	70½	76⅞
Eastern Counties	60½	62½	58⅜	61⅜
Great Northern	100½	102½	96½	102
Great Western	49⅜	51	48⅜	49½
Lancashire and Yorkshire... ...	89½	92½	88⅛	91⅛
London and North Western ...	89⅛	92¼	88¼	91½
Midland	90⅞	93½	89½	92½
North Staffordshire	11⅞	12	11⅜	11⅛
South Eastern	66½	68	65	68
South Western	91¾	95	91	94½
York, Newcastle, and Berwick ...	89½	91⅜	88½	91
York and North Midland	69⅜	73	68⅛	72½
East Indian...	104⅜	105½	101⅜x.in.	104½
Northern of France	37⅜	37⅞	35⅛	36⅜

THE GRAIN TRADE.

THE harvest is now beginning to get general throughout the country; in some districts wheat has not only been got in, but has been taken to market, and where such has been the case the quality has been described as very good. From all quarters the accounts of the wheat crops are well

spoken of, and the yield will be quite up to the average, if not better than usual. Barley on the whole is not likely to prove such a good crop as was in the earlier part of the season anticipated, and oats will be less productive than for some years past. Beans are also a bad crop. In the early part of the month wheat commanded considerably higher prices, but within the last few days, the markets throughout the country have given way to the extent of from 2*s*. to 3*s*. Barley, oats and beans have greatly enhanced in value, and there does not at present seem much prospect of their being lower.

The *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been:—

Week ending 1858.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s.	d.	Six Weeks' Average. s.	d.	Duty. s.	d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s.	d.
June 26	67,915	... 43	0	... 44	3	... 1	0	... 59	3
July 3	63,130	... 42	8	... 43	11	... 1	0	... 60	3
„ 10	69,644	... 43	4	... 43	8	... 1	0	... 61	8
„ 17	91,232	... 45	3	... 43	9	... 1	0	... 62	1

The importations since the harvest of 1857 have been:—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total Qrs.
Forty-eight weeks ended 16th June ...	3,643,705	3,538,349	7,182,054
Four weeks ended 14th July ...	464,514	299,192	763,706
	4,108,219	3,837,541	7,945,760

And the *weekly averages* have been:—

Forty-eight weeks ended 16th June ...	76,000	73,000	149,000
Four weeks ended 14th July ...	116,000	75,000	191,000
More	40,000	2,000	42,000

THE STATE OF TRADE.

Business has certainly been better in the manufacturing districts, and prices have slightly recovered. The operations, although not on an extensive scale, show that the export trade is in a more encouraging position, and that if confidence shall be restored, there will be speedily greater activity.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The pressure of the Joint-Stock Bank Meetings this month has compelled the omission of some communications and reviews. Correspondents will please understand that letters to secure punctual attention should be forwarded by the 20th of the month. Reports of Provincial Joint-Stock Banks are earnestly solicited.

R. S. (Exeter)—You cannot do better than purchase the three works named. A little book just published by Groombridge and Sons, entitled a *Handy Guide to Safe Investments*, will give the greater part of the information.

An Experienced Cashier (Glasgow)—It is well understood that a doubt exists upon the point, but the public appreciate the caution displayed.

Investigator—The efficiency of audits in any shape has been questioned, especially if knavery or collusion exists among officials.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE;

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

SEPTEMBER, 1858.

THE BANKING COMMITTEE REPORT.

CONSIDERING how many conflicting opinions exist upon the subject of currency and banking, even amongst practical men, whose long experience and successful following of the business of bankers entitle them to be regarded as authorities, and how dogmatically every theorist maintains his own particular doctrine, even to its minutest detail, refusing concession and scorning compromise, it would, perhaps, be unreasonable to expect in any committee of the House of Commons, impartially constituted, so much of unanimity as would be sufficient to produce a report of a decided character, and containing recommendations upon which practical legislation might be founded. The committee upon the Bank Acts appointed first in the session of 1857, and re-constituted in the session of 1857-58, just concluded, have, during the two Parliamentary years over which their labours have extended, carried their inquiry into every branch of the wide and difficult subject referred to them. They have discussed over again the policy of Peel's Act of 1844—they have examined witnesses as to its operation—they have collected the opinions of the convertible men and the non-convertible men of the metallic currency advocates, and of the champions of paper as against gold—they have taken evidence as to the bearing of the £14,000,000 limit in enhancing or mitigating the natural difficulties consequent upon periods of financial pressure—and they have sought advice as to whether the public are losers or gainers by the bargain which allows the Bank to charge interest for advances to the Exchequer on securities which, on the other hand, form the basis in part of its own note issues. Upon all these points, and many others, they have carried out a most elaborate examination; but the conclu-

sions at which they have arrived we are left to gather inferentially from the course of argument pursued in the undoubtedly able and carefully worded document which records the accomplishment of the task entrusted to them, rather than from any authoritative declaration of principle, or the open recognition of existing evils, and the suggestion of possible remedies founded upon the testimony adduced before them.

With regard to the very important, and, in point of fact, the main question of the inquiry, whether the allegation that the Act of 1844, if not the immediate cause of the financial crisis in 1847, and subsequently of that of 1857, at least contributed largely in both instances to the catastrophe, they as far as possible avoid expressing any positive opinion, though the general phraseology they employ in touching upon this question leads to the conclusion that in the view of the compiler of the report, at least, the theory of that Act is sound; that in practice it is not liable to the numerous charges which have been brought against it by the advocates of paper money; and that it is the duty of Parliament to maintain it in its integrity. Such being obviously the leaning of the majority of the committee, it is to be regretted that, apparently, an amiable desire to conciliate adverse opinions should have prevented their recording the results of their investigation in this respect in plain words, backed by the authority of a formal resolution, even though it were carried against a minority.

This of all others is a question too momentous to remain in abeyance. Nothing can be more inconvenient than the law which regulates the natural currency and establishes the relations between the national Bank and the State should be subject to doubt and uncertainty; and the most unsatisfactory feature in the present report is this seemingly studied avoidance of a distinct and definite declaration as to the main principles of the Act. But although they pronounce no judgment, the committee quote facts to show that one great object which the framers of the existing law had in contemplation has been accomplished—viz., the maintenance of an adequate supply of bullion in the Bank. Previous to the year 1844, they say that the stock of bullion had been reduced to £1,261,000 in 1825, to £3,831,000 in 1837, and to £2,406,000 in 1839; whereas since the passing of Peel's Act the lowest amount at which the bullion in the Bank stood was during the crisis of 1847, when the return gave £8,313,000, and again during the crisis of the autumn of last year, when the total amount of gold in the Bank was £6,080,000.

At first sight it might be imagined that this result was owing

to the enormous imports of the precious metals, which have of late years been flowing in from sources altogether new since 1844; but this hypothesis is shaken from its foundation when we observe that the Bank had a larger supply of bullion by 2½ millions during the pressure of 1847—ere California had begun to export gold, or the vast auriferous deposits of Australia had been discovered—than in 1857, when these ameliorating influences were in full operation. If, therefore, the increased supply in the hands of the Bank during 1847 and 1857, as compared with 1825, 1837 and 1839, be not ascribable in some measure to the working of the Act, we must look for the improvement to causes which do not usually act in that direction when a financial panic reigns—viz., the favourable state of the exchanges and the balance of trade.

Having thus evaded their responsibility in the major question, it is by no means surprising that they should have passed over many of the minor points in a manner equally unsatisfactory. They enter largely into the subject of note issues and the convertibility of notes; but whether they agree that provision for convertibility affords all that is necessary in the way of protection in such over issues is not stated. Very minutely, likewise, do they inquire into the system of Irish and Scotch banking, as it exists under the Supplementary Act of 1845, but they pronounce no opinion whether that system is all that can be desired, or whether it is susceptible of improvement. In dealing with the question of note issues in Scotland and in Ireland, and considering the desirability or otherwise of prohibiting the circulation of notes of a lower value than £5, it is time they offer something like a suggestion when, after remarking that the failure of the Western Bank of Scotland had withdrawn £338,000 from the note circulation of that country, they say, "it is questionable, therefore, whether the rule should be enforced there and in Ireland." But generally, in reference to the issue of small notes in Ireland and in Scotland, they formally reserve the whole of that question without prejudice for the future consideration of Parliament.

Turning to another part of the subject which has been much discussed, the limit upon which the Bank of England is authorised to issue upon securities, although the committee do not offer any recommendation, it may be safely gathered from the prominence which they give in their report to the evidence of Mr. Weguelin, that they coincide with him that if the limit of issues unbacked by bullion was raised from £14,000,000 to £16,000,000, it would not increase the circulation to that amount, but that the extra £2,000,000 would be kept in reserve,

or the bullion would be diminished in proportion, so that the circulation would remain the same. In the same way, with regard to the power of dispensing with, or rather suspending, the operation of the Act in times of financial and commercial difficulty, when only its action can be sensibly felt, the committee refer to the view enunciated by the high authorities examined before them, without saying whether they dissent from or concur with them, but leaving the reader to infer the latter. We are told that the present directors of the Bank are of opinion that this power should remain with the Government, that they consider that the Act has upon the whole operated not as a fetter but as a support to the Bank, and, by maintaining its supply of bullion, has enabled it to afford assistance to commerce at periods of monetary pressure, which it could not otherwise have done, and that, therefore, the directors recommend that no relaxation should take place. "In this opinion," say the committee, "the Governor of the Bank of Ireland—the representatives both of the chartered and unchartered banks of Scotland—the chairman of the association of private country bankers, and Mr. Alderman Salomons of the London and Westminster Bank, concur." A stronger array of authority it would be difficulty to bring to bear upon any subject connected with the principles and practice of banking and finance; and hence it is the more extraordinary that the committee should have considered it prudent so carefully to guard themselves against the expression of any opinion, on their own part, as to the policy or bearing of the Act, the operation of which was referred to their inquiry.

Than the careful and singularly lucid account which the report contains of the course of events in the ten years which intervened between the financial crisis of 1847 and the subsequent convulsion of 1857, nothing can be more interesting or instructive. To our historical literature, in so far as it supplies a carefully compiled and succinct narrative of the financial and mercantile progress of the country during that interval, and of the, in many respects, extraordinary phenomena which characterised it, this portion of the document will form a most valuable addition. Reviewing the circumstances, and connecting them with the events which occurred, they mention three influences, which everyone acquainted with the mercantile affairs must at once recognise, as having exercised a powerful influence in this country during the past ten years. These are: 1. An unprecedented extension of our foreign trade. 2. An importation of precious metals on a scale unknown in history since the first discovery of America. 3. A most remarkable

development of the economy afforded by the practice of banking for the use and distribution of capital.

They show that our exports had increased from £60,000,000 (beyond which they had never reached before 1848) to £122,000,000, at which they stood in 1857; that in seven years, from 1850 to 1857, the amount of gold received into Europe was 107½ millions; and that, deducting exports, the balance of increase in the seven years still remains at £80,700,000. And they estimate that the gold coin in circulation has risen to £50,000,000, while the note circulation, unrepresented by bullion, is 31½ millions. They state that the increase of banking accommodation and bill discounting kept pace with this remarkable development of wealth, and that the stimulus which the redundancy of money naturally gives to commercial enterprise and speculation, was extended beyond its legitimate limits by the facilities afforded for credit. The open credit system they enter into at length, and exhibiting generally the unsoundness of trade as it existed last year, and for some time previously, to that cause attribute the crash which in this country followed the American failure of last year, and report that the commercial crisis in this country was mainly owing to excessive speculation, abuse of credit, and to a system of open credits, accommodation bills and re-discounts—exonerating the Bank Charter Act from having had any share in its origin, and, as far as anything appears to the contrary, from having by the stringency of its provisions aggravated the evil. In effect, this is rather a verdict of "not proven" than "not guilty," leaving the same question again to be tried on the next recurrence of a similar financial convulsion.

THE SAVINGS BANK PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY.

Were there no considerations of higher moment connected with the subject, the fact that these savings banks deposits amount, together with the accumulations of interest, to, in round numbers, thirty-five millions and a quarter, is sufficiently important to command for these institutions the supervision and care of the Legislature. But of much greater consequence than the pecuniary question is the bearing which savings banks have upon the social condition of the people, by promoting habits of temperance, forethought and self-reliance. Again, the savings bank book, or rather the deposit which it represents, trifling though it may be, is a symbol of the stake the depositor has in the country; and, as in the case of the broad

acres of the landed proprietor, or in the Bank Stock, shares and other investments of the great capitalist, are the best security that can be offered for his loyalty, his love of order, and his respect for the laws of his country. There are few of our institutions, therefore, that ought to be regarded as more thoroughly national, or more deserving of the sympathy and support of all classes of the community. The disruption of public confidence occasioned by the savings bank frauds a few years ago, and the discovery then for the first time made that although nominally Government institutions, and managed under Government control, the depositors had no guarantee for their money save the respectability and solvency of the local managers, naturally brought the attention of Parliament to bear upon the subject, with a view to the remedying of this evil. Measure after measure has been introduced for this purpose; but owing to the strong objections raised against the very natural requirement, that if the Government are to be responsible the management must be in their hands, no practical result has up to the present time followed.

In February last, the House of Commons appointed a select committee to inquire into the Acts relating to savings banks, and the operation thereof. The committee was composed of some of the most practical men in Parliament, including Mr. Estcourt, Mr. Henley, Sir H. Willoughby, Mr. Adderley, Lord Goderich, Mr. T. Baring, and others, and after an inquiry which extended over five months, in the course of which they availed themselves of the experience of Mr. Tidd Pratt the certifying barrister, Sir Alexander Spearman, Lord Monteagle, Mr. Boodle the savings bank actuary, and others connected with the management of savings banks, both in the metropolis and in the provinces, they at the close of the session embodied the result of their labours in an elaborate report. In this document they review the course of past legislation, the central authority of the National Debt Office, and the practice with respect to investment and repayment of balances, the question of Parliamentary guarantee, and the relations between the central and local offices, and the mode of providing for future expenditure.

Upon the first of these points they declare, that the existing state of the law is "unsatisfactory and uncertain, diffused through Acts partially rescinded, and which nowhere presents a clear and distinct announcement of the duties, liabilities, or rights of any of the parties concerned in the management and welfare of these institutions." In reference to the second point, they report that a limited control over savings banks has been assigned to

the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, relating almost entirely to the legislation of the savings bank on its first establishment, which is exercised through the instrumentality of the certifying barrister, and the administration of the funds transmitted by the trustees to the commissioners for investment. The commission for the management and investment of these funds consists of the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Chief Baron of the Exchequer, the Master of the Rolls, the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Governor and Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England; but it appears from the evidence of Sir Alexander Spearman, that the duty of investment is performed entirely by the Comptroller of the National Debt Office, under the immediate direction of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the other commissioners taking no part in the matter whatever, beyond holding a general meeting once a quarter, at which the four first named, having other important official functions to occupy their time, rarely if ever attend. Under this somewhat loose and unsatisfactory arrangement, since the first establishment of savings banks by Act of Parliament in the year 1817, £43,283,915 has been received and invested, the interest paid and credited upon which amounts to £28,851,993, making together £72,135,908, of which £36,880,908 has been repaid to the depositors. The evidence taken by the Committee shows that this enormous aggregate of capital has been from time to time employed by succeeding Chancellors of the Exchequer as a means for carrying on financial operations in the money market for state purposes; and the result is a deficiency between the amount of securities invested and the total of principal and interest due to the depositors of no less than £5,186,113, taking the present value of the stocks. The object of these operations is to keep up the market for Exchequer Bills and stock, as the case may be, by large purchases, and the loss arises from the lower price at which it has been found necessary to effect sales in the one class of securities to purchase into the other. During one year, from November, 1856, to November, 1857, the loss from this procedure was upwards of a million. Another abuse connected with the existing arrangements for the investment of these savings bank funds has been exposed by the committee. It appears from the evidence of Lord Monteagle that, under the presumed authority of certain sections in the Savings Banks Acts relating to the conversion of Exchequer bills into stock, a system was commenced during the time that he held the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, and continued during

the official career of his immediate successor, by which, without the sanction of Parliament or the knowledge of the House of Commons, £23,000,000 were added to the permanent funded debt of the country within two years and a half, during which, it will be remembered, the then Government were in a position of great financial difficulty.

With regard to the power which the Government have for the last thirty years exercised of dealing with the savings banks deposits for state purposes, the report says, it has been urged in favour of the existing practice, that upon two occasions, in 1835 and 1844, the Chancellor of the Exchequer was enabled by this means "to accomplish great reductions in the interest of the debt, by which the nation was relieved of an annual charge of many thousand pounds; and that on the breaking out of the Crimean war the purchase of Exchequer bills on account of savings banks was a means of furnishing the Government with the necessary supplies at a moment when a loan could not have been obtained, except at a serious discount." Admitting that the command over so large a sum must be a great advantage to the Exchequer in critical times, the committee put forward very cogent objections against the uncontrolled exercise of such a power, especially that it "withdraws from the cognizance of Parliament large financial transactions during the time when they are in course of being accomplished; and it also occasions discredit to savings banks, by putting them in the light of institutions burthensome to the country, when, in truth, it is plain that, if their money were regularly invested in Consols and bills as it accrued, little or no deficiency would now exist."

In reference to the Parliamentary guarantee and the relations between local and central authority, the committee hold that Parliament having released local trustees from their liability, are bound to provide some other guarantee for the money of the depositors, and that an alternative ought to be given to the trustees either to secure the guarantee of Parliament on conditions to be prescribed by the commission, or themselves undertake the same liability as the Act of 9 Geo. IV. imposed upon them. They further record their opinion, founded upon the testimony of all the witnesses examined, that the presence of a second party in every transaction where money is paid or received should be insisted upon as the most effectual restraint upon malversation.

Upon the point of expenditure the committee very properly say, that the payment of interest and the expense of management ought not to be a source of annual loss to the state; and they suggest that by investing a portion of the capital in Parliamentary securities yielding a larger return than 3 per

cent., and by applying to the purpose of a management fund the interest of the present unappropriated surplus, together with all dormant claims after the expiration of ten years, a fund may be provided—without lowering the rate of interest now allowed, viz., £3 5*s*.—for defraying expenses and liquidating the deficiency which has arisen.

The following are the recommendations which, upon the evidence adduced and the facts they collected, they have submitted to Parliament, and which, as far as the management of savings banks is concerned and the investment of these funds, promise a basis for a satisfactory legislative settlement of the question, and the re-establishment of public confidence in these valuable institutions:—

"1. That the laws relating to savings banks in the United Kingdom require to be amended and to be consolidated in one Act. 2. That it is expedient to place the superintendence and management of the general funds of the savings banks in the United Kingdom in a commission consisting of five members. 3. That it is desirable that this commission be constituted of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Governor of the Bank of England, or in his absence the Deputy-governor, and three other persons appointed by the Crown, of whom one shall be paid. 4. That all expenses of the commission be paid out of the moneys of savings banks; that the surplus fund shall be invested in public securities, and the interest carried to the account of the surplus fund, out of which such expenses shall be defrayed. 5. That the powers and duties of the commission shall be defined by Act of Parliament; that provision be made for the summoning and holding at stated intervals the meetings of the commission; that three shall be a quorum, and the minutes of each meeting duly recorded and signed by the chairman. 6. That the rules and regulations relating to the receipt and payments of all moneys, and to the purchases and sales of stocks and all securities, be passed at meetings of the commision specially convened for that purpose, and shall be subject to the approval of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury. 7. That the annual accounts of the commission, containing the receipts and payments of all moneys, and every detail as to the sales and purchases of stocks and other securities belonging to the savings banks, within the year ending on November 20 in each year, be audited by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Audit. 8. That monthly accounts of the receipts and payments of all moneys, and of sales and purchases of stocks and other securities, be prepared by the commissioners, and copies of the monthly accounts shall be forwarded to the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury, and to the Governor of the Bank of England, within one week of the following month. 9. That the annual accounts, containing the receipts and payments of all moneys, and every detail as to the sales and purchases of stock, and of other securities of the savings banks, be laid before both Houses of Parliament in the first week of February, if Parliament is sitting, and if Parliament is not sitting, then within ten days next after the first sitting of Parliament. 10. That no sales, purchases, or exchanges of stocks or securities held by the commission shall be made, except as required for the purposes of the savings banks, and that no funding of Exchequer bills held by the commission shall in future be made without the special authority of an Act of Parliament. 11. That the commission should be empowered by Par-

liament to invest a portion of such funds, not exceeding one-third of the whole, in other securities than those now authorised to be purchased with those funds: these securities being such as are created or guaranteed under an Act of Parliament. 12. That it is inexpedient that any existing deficiency of the funds should be made the ground of reducing the present rate of interest allowed to the banks, but the whole subject of the estimated deficiency be referred to the consideration of Parliament. 13. That any future surplus income of the board shall be carried to the credit of a guarantee fund, to meet any casual charges, losses, or deficiency of income; but if there shall be no surplus to meet such deficiency of income, the rate of interest allowed to savings banks shall be proportionately diminished. 14. That the commission shall have power to frame regulations respecting the accounts to be kept, and the audit thereof, and respecting the receipt and payment of deposits, on the adoption whereof by any savings bank, such bank shall acquire security for the deposits therein guaranteed by Parliament, and that such savings bank shall have a special title. 15. That the commission may appoint such officers as may be requisite for the proper audit and inspection of such accounts, and for obtaining due compliance with such regulations. 16. That no banking concerns should be permitted to assume the name of savings banks, except such as have had their rules duly certified. 17. The rules of every savings bank shall be in force, only after they have been certified by the barrister, to whom no fee shall be payable. 18. That the responsibility of trustees be enacted in the same terms as in the Act 9 Geo. IV., c. 92. 19. That the present limits of yearly and total amounts of deposits payable on demand be maintained. 20. That whenever any deposit shall amount to £150, the commissioners may, with the consent of the depositor, invest a portion of that deposit in the purchase for the depositor of £100 stock, the interest on which shall be received by the commissioners, and be placed to the depositor's account.

CROSSED CHEQUES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Act to *amend* the law relating to crossed cheques received the Royal assent on 2nd August, and a more bungling and discreditable piece of commercial legislation never proceeded from the collective wisdom of Parliament; the successive steps by which the bill as originally introduced by the Attorney-General, was patched and amended as its defects and injustice were made apparent, are so illustrative of the impolicy of the Government rashly and hastily undertaking to remedy supposed imperfections in the law, that it will not be uninteresting if we briefly sketch the history and progress of this measure, which has attained so adventitious a notoriety, from the discussions respecting its operation, which have appeared in the London newspapers.

The credit of suggesting the bill is claimed by the "Mercantile Law Amendment Society," about which little appears to be known beyond the fact that it has an office and a secretary; and the immediate occasion which gave rise to the suggestion, was evidently the action against the London Joint-Stock Bank to recover the amount of a

cheque paid across the counter, which it appeared had been crossed, but from which the crossing had been skilfully erased by the person into whose hands it had improperly fallen. The first bill was intended to make the crossing by the issuer or drawer of the cheque a material part of it, instead of a mere direction to pay only through a banker; the effect would obviously have been to make the banker responsible, not only for the payment of the cheque to the particular banker with whose name it might be crossed, but also for any fraudulent alteration or obliteration of the crossing, although so skilfully effected as to escape detection when presented for payment; but it does not appear to have occurred to the framers of the bill that it was necessary the banker should have some means of knowing whether the crossing was on the cheque when issued, and so not to be altered or added to, or whether placed by a holder who would have the power to add to or alter the name on the crossing. Clause No. 2 was therefore introduced, and any "lawful holder" was empowered to do that, which the law had never before recognized—make a material addition to the cheque binding on the banker, and this notwithstanding it is alleged "The Attorney-General, adopting the simple and intelligible view of the relation between bankers and customers, undertook to render the crossing of a cheque a substantive part of the document, so that the agent should remain responsible for compliance with the *distinct directions of his principal.*" At this point, the bankers, albeit but little accustomed to co-operative measures, resisted the new responsibility so coolly intended to be thrust upon them by this patchwork legislation, and Clause 4 was introduced in the name of Mr. Bovill, but really by the Attorney-General.

We shall now proceed to point out some of the blunders still existing in the Act. By Clause 1 a cheque *issued* crossed "and Company" must have two transverse lines, or it appears the crossing does become a material part of the cheque; but Clause 2 dispenses with the transverse lines, when such a crossing is made by a "lawful holder;" so also it seems that a cheque which has been issued uncrossed, and afterwards by a lawful holder crossed with "and Company," cannot have the name of a banker inserted by a subsequent holder, the first holder having exhausted the permissive powers of the Act. But the most serious and culpable omission is in not providing for the payment to the agent of a country banker such cheques as may be crossed to the county bank, although payable at a different place, the words of the Act being precise:—"The banker shall *not* pay such cheque or draft to *any other* than the banker with whose name such cheque or draft shall be so crossed." The attention of the Attorney-General was, we understand, drawn to this before the bill had been in Committee, and he is stated to have admitted the defect, and promised to remedy it, but, with that strange infirmity of purpose which led him to approve one day what he condemned the next, and almost to pledge himself to oppose his own bill in its passage through the Lords, the promised remedy was conveniently forgotten.

THE CURSE OF THE CURRENCY CURED; OR, A SOUND SCHEME FOR SECURING A SAFE AND STEADY SUPPLY OF THE CIRCULATING MEDIUM. BY A LATE M.P.

I KNOW that I must not be tedious, or these pages will not be read. I therefore abstain from quotations, though a volume might be filled with appropriate ones.

I ask then at once, what is it that causes panics in the money markets?—There can be but one answer.

The money dealers, either from the state of the "exchanges" or from the diminishing amount of bullion in the Bank of England, foreseeing a higher price for the interest of their money, begin to be chary of accommodation; in fact, begin to hoard. At the same time prudent men engaged in commerce keep a tight hand on their resources, in order to meet their forthcoming liabilities, and these circumstances combined, cause a locking up of money, and what is called a "scarcity of money" follows; not that there is a real deficiency of money in the country, but practically there is a scarcity, as those who require at that time the ordinary facilities for the legitimate carrying on of their business find to their cost.

As this state of circumstances continues, the gold in the Bank becomes still more and more diminished.

The Restriction Act compels the Bank to draw in as much value in notes as will cover or meet this diminution. That cause still further contracts the circulation, and makes money really, not merely practically, still more and more scarce. These causes act and react one on the other, the price of hiring money becomes excessive, and many a fair trader of capital is put to enormous unnecessary loss, if he be not even obliged to suspend his payments.

I am not intending to cast blame on the Bank. The Directors dare but issue notes, first to the extent of the loan made to the nation of fourteen millions, and then to the extent of the gold they may happen to hold.

Here, I cannot but stop to ask a question, which I am sure can never be satisfactorily answered. Why should these two amounts* constitute *the currency?*

Suppose the money lent by the Bank to the State had been twice what it is, or had been half what it is, then, if it be right to issue a sum of £14,000,000 upon that loan in notes *now*, of necessity it would have been wrong in either of the cases supposed. The amount allowed to be issued is therefore an accident or a mere piece of guess work. The two bases were not fixed upon because they were sure to meet the wants of the people, but merely because they afforded a security for the paper issued, partly by the gold, partly by the State debt.

What an anomaly it is, that if at any time there shall be two or three millions of gold less in the Bank than usual (not a human being all the

* I pass by the issues of country banks, which in this sense, do not affect the question.

while able to say that the said deficiency is not in the hands of individuals), the selling value of the property of the people in lands, funds, stocks, goods, &c. should be, for the time, reduced several hundred millions —yet such is the effect of the law.

"After a storm comes a calm." People get tired of frightening one another: the money dealers, tempted by the high rate of interest, bring out their hoards; the money market is quoted as "less tight;" then "easier;" and so on, until we are set all right again, but not without many having been ruined by the panic, and no one individual benefited by the loss but the speculator in gold.

Next come cheaper and cheaper terms for money; all kinds of wild schemes are set on foot, and speculating gamblers, without capital and without principle, get all sorts of indulgences; money is "as cheap as dirt." The Bank discounts good bills at two per cent.; they are full of deposits, and they naturally desire to make a dividend. Do they not, to keep out the money, when good bills are not offered at even that rate, make advances on funds at 1½ or even 1 per cent.? and it is certain that the tone in the discount market is taken from the Bank, whether it be high or low. I need not pursue this subject much further; imports are excessive—wild schemes are as thick as blackberries—foreign things, to pay better interest, are fostered—when, alas! the exchanges turn once more against us, and the inevitable cycle comes round again.

There are plenty of people who will say, "It is very well that panics should happen now and then, to drive the wild unprincipled speculator out of the market." I humbly think that it would be far better to contrive some check against his getting into it; for you cannot eject *him* without distressing the honest merchant and manufacturer who by pressure are necessarily forced to sell their goods at a loss, and if manufactures are stopt, even for a short time, the poor artizan suffers and is without bread.

Money should, if possible, be kept alike from becoming too cheap or too dear. But as these are terms without definite meaning, I may naturally be asked, what fixed standard of price can you set up? I reply we have a national debt ten times larger than the currency, bearing a certain rate of interest, and that rate forms a datum line, therefore something added to that rate for labour, risk and profit is a good criterion of the proper medium value at which money should always stand. If money could be kept hovering about 4 per cent. per annum, it would be a great advantage to lender and borrower. But can that desideratum be achieved under the Bank Restriction Act? Experience shows that it cannot. On two occasions, with an interval of only ten years between them, the Government has been compelled to relax the provisions of that Act, and to apply to Parliament to indemnify them; and, although the relaxation was only to the extent of two millions on the last occasion, the panics were at once arrested, and the normal state of the money market speedily attained; but, alas! how many millions were squandered and lost uselessly during their continuance!—how many families reduced

from real affluence to beggary! How serious and how lasting their effects upon the trade of the country, and upon the comforts and necessities of the poor!

If the present Bank law be thus imperfect, the question arises, can it be so altered as to accomplish that end, and its note issue still continue to be, as now, perfectly safe? I think not.

What then is the remedy? If it be not safe or wise to allow the Bank more discretion as to its paper issue, what shall we do? I answer, let Parliament by a resolution in the first place, and then by law, buy the whole of the Bank Stock. On the day on which the resolution passes, Bank Stock is quoted at £———, then if we add to that 10 per cent. for compulsory purchase, we arrive at a fair value at which the Stock might be taken. Nobody is injured by this, there is no particular affection for a particular stock; it is not like taking away a man's domicile in which he may delight, and even that is taken (and paid for) if the public service require it.

The Bank Stock may be paid for in notes, or a new Stock may be created bearing the same rate of interest as the average paid on Bank Stock for the last seven years, or by an arranged equivalent in any other Government security.

This being all settled, then the Bank, the books, the bullion, the notes, all belong to the State. The debt of £14,000,000 is cancelled.

The clerks and officers are still retained to pay the dividends on the funds, and to do all the duties they now perform, except one, to be hereafter spoken of. All the machinery for transfer of stock remains; it is now as perfect against fraud as human ingenuity, aided by long experience, can contrive.

Let a reserve—say £10,000,000 of gold—always remain in the cellar, not to be touched, except on such an emergency as may never happen.

The Bank will remain as it now does, as a safe place of deposit for individuals, as well as for the Government business and that of the Courts of Law; but no bills called commercial bills are to be discounted for anybody; navy bills, or other state bills having time to run, may be discounted, if convenient.

The House of Commons should twice in each year, perhaps at the beginning and close of each session of Parliament, vote how much shall be the issue of notes and the rate of interest thereon for the ensuing half-yearly period.

Having gone thus far, let us suppose for the sake of argument, that the vote has been for twenty-four millions of pounds, with a margin of two millions and four millions as under.

Then how, it may be asked, is this twenty-four millions to be kept out? Kept out it cannot be entirely; but how is it to be allowed to go out—to go out if wanted by the public?

I will assume, that the following are the prices of the interest. The twenty-four millions are to be lent, or rather that proportion of it which is lent, at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum. When the issue exceeds twenty-four millions and does not exceed twenty-six millions, then the price of all loans shall be at the rate of 3½ per cent. Beyond the latter issue the rate charged shall be 4 per cent. up to twenty-eight millions.

When I speak of this lending, I mean only of such surplus notes as are in the Bank from time to time, and are not wanted by the State; for example, the taxes and revenues coming in at expected, or rather at known periods, being estimated, the dividends, the payment of troops, &c., also taken into account, a certain amount kept in hand to meet the deposits—all these having been calculated, it is found that there are so many millions not wanted, and therefore may be lent, for a certain number of months, or part can be spared for one period and part for another.

I will suppose that a Board of Directors, or a Committee, will be retained, or be set up, whose business it will be to see what money (notes) can be spared to be lent out.

A notice is put up in the rotunda (?) every day, or oftener if necessary, stating what sums, and for what periods, and at what price, they are to be lent out.

Then any fund holder who has power to sell his funds, shall be at liberty, according to priority of application, to take up money on his stock or funds, at the rate of say 90 per cent. of their value, calculated at the market price of the day before. In other words, he mortages his stock or funds to the State, paying for the advance at the rate of 3, 3½, or 4 per cent., as the case may be.

The machinery for this is obvious enough, the same proofs of identity as for the sale of stock will be resorted to. If the owner do not personally apply, he must sign a power of attorney bearing, I hope, a less stamp than now in use, but still a stamp by way of fee, for the work done, and this fee, or a still smaller one, may be payable by him if he apply in person.

Advances are also supposed to be made on Exchequer bills, and to their full amount, less the accruing interest; the discount or hire of the money being paid by the borrower at the time of borrowing. The bills to be deposited with a solemn declaration that they are his own property; an officer can be appointed to take the solemn declaration. In case the party applying be not the owner, then a solemn declaration may be made before a Justice by the owner that he allows the bearer to take up money on the bills. This may not be the best way, but a way could be found to prevent fraudulent borrowing; a clause in the Act could settle the matter.

Here I must digress one moment to say that Exchequer bills would become a much more coveted security than they now are, and might be issued at a less price per diem, other circumstances being the same.

This mode of lending out notes, whether on funds or Exchequer bills, is absolutely a safe one, for you lend to the very man to whom you are debtor.

The understanding will, of course, be, that if the borrowing party do not repay on the fixed day, or renew the loan, if convenient to the Bank, in any case paying up the interest, the funds or Exchequer bills, as the case may be, will be sold to recoup the Bank.

In the case of funds you have the 10 per cent. margin, on Exchequer

bills the accruing interest, not only for the days run before you lent upon them, but also for the time they have been in hand.

It is submitted that this process keeps out the exact amount of money which is wanted by the public, and no more, and being an elastic process at a rather higher rate of interest, added to the fact that the average time before Parliament can deal with the question is only about three months, the alarm which is the forerunner of a money panic can hardly be worked up.

I know it is the fashion to say that it is dangerous for a State to be the issuers of notes or promises to pay; it may be so for Governments to do so as distinguished from Parliament. If it be considered for one moment that Parliament has been allowed to borrow, and that on interest too, £800,000,000, what can be the reason Parliament may not borrow twenty or thirty millions not bearing interest?

I hardly do justice to my scheme in the latter paragraph; it is not a new borrowing to the extent named, or anything like it, for all the money lent out is only a conversion for the time of a debt owed bearing interest to one not bearing interest.

Passing over all this, one might unhesitatingly say that things of this kind, done in the open light of day, by Parliament, can never bring the Nation to grief.

It is not proposed that the state bank notes are to be paid off; in other words, it is not meant that they shall be what is now called convertible, but it is meant that they shall be a legal tender, and be payable for taxes or duties on anything in fact which a man has to pay for.

Perhaps this is the right place to suggest a form of note.

It may be desirable to keep it in form, words, shape and character as much like the present note as we can. The words, "Bank of England," can still honestly be used, as it will be a note of the Bank of England in a stricter sense.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

No. No.

I promise that this note shall be received in all payments to the Crown or otherwise as of the value of Five Pounds.

1858, August, 31. London, 31st August, 1858.

For the Crown of this realm

(Signed) J. SINCLAIR.

FIVE.

The form for Bank Post Bills may remain nearly as at this time, and be drawn on the cashier, and run, "Pay Mr John Jones or order," &c.

I expect to hear, if I am not too vain in expecting this scheme will be discussed at all, that some great inconvenience will arise from the notes not being compulsorily convertible into sovereigns. I am ready to grant that this is a blot; there is no great good without some evil. Let us however look into this matter further. No part of the fourteen millions is so convertible, it is only that part of the circulation for which

the equivalent in gold is in the Bank. The promise to pay in coin is a fallacy, if you apply it to the whole issue.

Everybody who has a Bank of England note can obtain gold for it all over the country, but it is not from the Bank of England he gets it. There is a Bank in the City, a Branch at the West-end, and Branches also at Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Plymouth and Portsmouth; but in all the other cities and towns of England and Wales you must look elsewhere. Yet no real or practical difficulty exists anywhere, and it might fairly be urged that no difficulty would ensue if the scheme now proposed were in action.

The Bank of England would still have gold paid in for safe deposit as it has now, and some of the borrowed money would be returned in gold, therefore small change for paying the odd money in dividends would be as likely to be in it for that purpose as it is now.

The Mint and all its operations would go on exactly as at present. The Bank buys gold for coining, and so it would then. How does it now pay for such gold? By notes, of course, as it would then.

The Bank manufactures no article of commerce, and has nothing it can send abroad for gold; all that kind of business is carried on by and through individuals, gold being an article of commerce as much as corn or cotton.

I confess that I would rather have the note convertible, if it were possible, but it is not so with the scheme proposed, or by any other scheme that I know of, with safety; for you cannot allow the Bank such an *ad libitum* issue as shall at all times meet the wants of commerce, and yet the notes be convertible.

I believe that the loss of the convertibility of the note will be found of less disadvantage than may now be expected. The inconvenience, if any, can only be partially felt, certainly not at Sheffield or Exeter, at Bath or Hull, or at any of the places other than the nine I have mentioned; and in those places I have put the case more favourably for the present system than I ought, because you cannot *demand* gold at any of them for a note dated "London," or at any Branch for the note of another Branch. It is only of late years that these Branches have been established.

As all these Branches would become the property of the nation, they may still be carried on, if it shall be found that they are a public convenience, and they pay their way without any discounting of commercial paper.

I have not touched the profit and loss question; of course there will be a great profit, but I wish to put forward only the higher consideration, viz., the benefit of commerce and trade.

In conclusion, these arguments are submitted by the writer, who has no personal interest to move him, to the candid consideration of those who direct their attention to the important subject of the currency, under the conviction that if the system here recommended were adopted, it would lead to the prevention of the disasters attending periodical panics.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to Thursday, August 12 :—

DEBTOR.	F.	C.	CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Capital of the Bank	91,250,000	0	Cash in hand	264,932,480	17
Ditto, New	91,250,000	0	Cash in the branch banks	296,576,123	0
Profits in addition to capital (Art. 8, Law of June 9, 1857)	1,573,467	77	Commercial bills overdue	898,299	18
			Do. discounted, but not due	181,801,992	66
			Ditto in the branch banks	212,651,458	0
Reserve of the Bank	12,980,759	14	Advanced on deposit of bullion	1,007,300	0
New reserve	9,125,000	0	Do. by the branch banks	1,504,400	0
Ditto in landed property...	4,000,000	0	Do. on French public securities	31,768,300	0
Bank notes in circulation	686,640,075	0			
Bank notes to order	5,714,79)	40	Do. by the branch banks	9,202,650	0
Receipts payable at sight	6,426,004	0	Do. on railway securities	39,823,100	0
Treasury account-current, creditor	126,339,003	97	Do. by the branch banks	20,155,004	0
			Do. on Crédit Foncier scrip	869,800	0
Sundry accounts-current...	150,279,600	2	Do. on branch banks scrip	133,200	0
Do. with the branch banks	34,535,894	9			
Dividends payable	1,617,325	25	Do. to the State on agreement of June 30, 1848...	45,000,000	0
Discounts and sundry interests	1,758,457	45	Government stock reserved	12,980,750	14
			Ditto disposable	52,188,103	58
Commission on deposits ...	2,776,236	19	New shares, not settled ..	477,675	0
Re-discounted during the last-six months	1,066,532	18	Hotel & furniture of the Bk.	4,000,000	0
			Landed property of the branch banks	6,276,595	0
Sundries	6,708,097	94	Expenses of the Bank.....	535,935	66
			Sundries.....	2,219,827	54
F.	1,183,996,993	93	F.	1,183,996,993	93

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, DE GERMINY.

This return shows the further extraordinary increase of £1,340,000 in the stock of bullion, the total held being thus raised to £22,460,000, or about £13,000,000 in excess of the amount on the 1st of January last. The discounts show an augmentation of only £10,000. There has been an increase of £1,720,000 in the note circulation, of £706,000 in the Government balances, of £604,000 in the deposits, and of £100,000 in the advances on Rentes, and £50,000 in those on shares.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade returns for the month of June were issued on the 24th July, and again show a falling off in the declared value of our exportations, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, although not to the same extent as in previous months, the diminution being £389,407. Silk and woollen manufactures and iron goods continue to present the chief decrease, but owing to the overstocked state of the Australian and colonial markets, the articles which depend mostly on the demand from those quarters, such as haberdashery, hardwares, &c., likewise figure considerably on the unfavourable side. The linen trade also still exhibits depression; cottons, supported by the requirements for the East, have again been largely

shipped, and this circumstance has greatly contributed to lessen the adverse character of the general total of the entire return. The subjoined table exhibits the exact increase or decrease under each head :—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Months ending June 30, 1857, and June 30, 1858.	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.
Apparel and slops	£215,781	£177,602	—	£38,179
Beer and ale	119,740	210,016	£90,276	—
Books	34,455	26,000	—	8,455
Butter	62,398	56,900	—	5,998
Candles	19,432	13,270	—	6,162
Cheese	8,981	5,576	—	3,405
Coals and culm	289,048	328,435	39,387	—
Cordage...	14,727	13,703	—	1,024
Cottons	2,512,153	2,812,715	300,562	—
Cotton yarn	657,333	928,900	71,567	—
Earthenware	140,978	97,378	—	43,600
Fish	26,361	6,595	—	19,766
Furniture	17,147	16,765	—	382
Glass	49,290	40,785	—	8,505
Haberdashery	351,702	291,081	—	60,621
Hardwares	334,508	281,614	—	52,894
Leather	197,672	183,923	—	13,749
Linens	408,652	368,986	—	39,666
Linen yarn	133,910	147,902	13,992	—
Machinery	351,220	342,453	—	8,767
Iron and steel	1,244,396	1,152,380	—	92,016
Copper and brass...	227,697	258,976	31,279	—
Lead	72,929	50,733	—	22,196
Tin	181,525	164,571	—	16,954
Oil seed	42,429	49,723	7,294	—
Painters' colours...	34,498	31,656	—	2,842
Pickles and sauces	28,542	21,032	—	7,510
Plate and jewellery	45,556	33,624	—	11,932
Salt	41,691	28,490	—	13,201
Silks	296,130	187,230	—	108,900
Soap	18,737	19,797	1,060	—
Soda	69,291	66,697	—	2,594
Spirits	59,632	16,541	—	43,091
Stationery	58,622	59,859	1,237	—
Sugar, refined	12,295	38,110	25,815	—
Wool	140,227	81,297	—	58,930
Woollens	1,107,705	893,466	—	214,239
Woollen Yarn	253,115	270,674	17,559	—
Unenumerated articles	749,835	665,978	—	83,857
Total	10,630,840	10,241,433		

The total of our exports for the first six months of the year has been £53,467,804, showing a decrease of £7,358,577 or about 12 per cent. The decline each month has been in the following proportions :—

	Decrease.
January	**£1,836,505**
February	**2,024,624**
March	**1,456,074**

	Decrease.
April	534,411
May	1,117,556
June	389,407

As compared with the corresponding six months of 1856, the reduction has been only £500,612.

With regard to imported commodities, the chief feature consists in the large arrivals of wheat and flour, which have been on a scale quite sufficient, with the prospects of the harvest, to account for the permanent heaviness of the corn-market. The arrivals of cocoa, coffee, tea and tobacco have likewise been heavy; but in the consumption of the two former a decrease is indicated, while in that of tea there has been an increase, tobacco showing no alteration. Of wines and spirits both the imports and consumption exhibit a reduction. Fruits and spices have been taken largely.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption:—

Months ending June 30, 1857, and June 30, 1858.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Grain, wheat, qrs.	313,641	573,636	313,641	573,636
Grain of other descriptions, qrs.	444,817	418,101	444,817	418,101
Indian corn, qrs....	60,777	151,319	60,777	151,319
Flour and meal, cwt.	92,079	406,002	92,079	406,002
Provisions—Bacon, &c. &c., cwt.	162,786	60,311	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt.	72,665	50,108	74,832	50,164
Animals, No.	16,079	14,585	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	15,938,800	16,464,600	15,938,600	16,560,600
Cocoa, lb.	1,022,455	1,486,868	233,964	157,747
Coffee, lb.	6,120,912	8,301,193	2,565,733	2,543,930
Sugar, cwt.	1,035,901	998,179	711,545	783,543
Tea, lb....	6,507,055	9,900,551	5,358,122	5,995,997
Rice, cwt.	261,690	356,805	159,373	131,426
Spirits, gallons	1,353,887	789,138	303,326	273,989
Wines, gallons	1,131,521	467,315	575,407	549,573
Tobacco, lb.	1,599,412	2,166,979	2,551,702	2,565,442
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt...	8,230	11,525	19,241	24,183
Lemons and oranges, bushels ...	27,330	40,075	25,330	47,285
Spices, lb.	315,750	1,281,327	205,785	287,373
Ditto, cwt.	8,906	8,298	2,080	1,836

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing a decrease in all descriptions, except flax and cotton:

Months ending June 30, 1857, and June 30, 1858.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Flax, cwt.	194,609	116,267	—	—
Hemp, cwt	85,783	133,939	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	581,954	439,358	199,360	153,318
Cotton, cwt....	1,287,588	1,339,108	169,212	142,579
Wool, lb.	10,118,507	9,751,370	2,640,925	2,153,037
Tallow, cwt.	77,568	70,208	3,274	178

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Months ending June 30, 1857, and June 30, 1858.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	37,444	53,284	38,988	52,356
Ditto of India, pieces	75,044	11,097	6,287	3,668

THE NEW JOINT-STOCK BANKING ACT.

THE Joint-stock Banking Companies Bill, which has passed the Lords, contains the following clauses :—

1. So much of the Joint-stock Banking Companies Act, 1857, as prohibits a banking company from being formed under that act with limited liability, or prohibits an existing banking company from being registered under that act with limited liability, shall be repealed, subject to the following proviso, that no banking company claiming to issue notes in the United Kingdom shall be entitled to limited liability in respect of such issue, but shall continue subject to unlimited liability in respect thereof, and that, if necessary, the assets shall be marshalled for the benefit of the general creditors, and the shareholders shall be liable for the whole amount of the issue, in addition to the sum for which they would be liable as shareholders of a limited company.

2. The registration of a banking company under the Joint-stock Banking Companies Act, 1857, or under any other act, shall not prejudice the right of such company to register itself again as a limited company under the said Joint-stock Banking Companies Act, 1857, and the acts incorporated therewith.

3. Provided that every company so registering itself again as a limited company, and every existing banking company which shall register itself as a limited banking company, shall, at least thirty days previous to obtaining a certificate of registration with limited liability, give notice that it is intended so to register the same to every person and partnership firm who shall have a banking account with the company, and such notice shall be given either by delivering the same to such person or firm, or leaving the same or putting the same into the post addressed to him or them at such address as shall have been their address to or by the company; and in case the company shall omit to give any such notice as is hereinbefore required to be given, then as between the company and the person or persons only who are for the time being interested in the account in respect of which such notice ought to have been given, and so far as respects such account and all variations thereof down to the time at which such notice shall be given, but not further or otherwise, the certificate of registration with limited liability shall have no operation.

4. Every limited joint-stock banking company shall, before it commences business, or, if a banking company at the time carrying on business with unlimited liability, before it avails itself of the provisions of this act, and also on the 1st day of February and 1st day of August in every year during which it carries on business, make a statement in the form contained in the schedule hereto, or as near thereto as circumstances will admit, and a copy of such statement shall be put up in a conspicuous place in the registered

office of the company, and in every branch office or place where the banking business of the company is carried on; and if default is made in due compliance with the provisions of this section, each director shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds for every day during which such default continues, and such penalties shall be recovered in a summary manner.

5. Limited joint-stock banking companies shall be wound up in the same manner and under the same jurisdiction as that in and under which joint-stock banking companies other than limited are required to be wound up by the Joint-stock Banking Companies Act, 1857.

Banking and Commercial Law.

ON THE LAW OF CROSSED CHEQUES.

In a late number we directed attention to some of the heavy liabilities it was intended, by the new measure, to impose on bankers, in order to give security to the public. We are glad to find that a clause has been added to the Act, which will place the banker in a more satisfactory position, and at the same time afford the public, if they themselves use due caution, all the protection which they can reasonably require.

It was certainly not to be supposed that bankers could undertake the risk of having to pay a cheque twice over, if they failed to discover what no ordinary care would enable them to see. The public could only expect such a liability to arise in the event either of wilful disobedience or culpable negligence. In the much canvassed case of *Simmonds* v. *Taylor*, it appeared that a crossing had once existed which had been obliterated, leaving no trace behind. To save a banker from liability under similar circumstances the following clause has been added:—

"Provided always that any banker paying a cheque or draft which does not at the time when it is presented for payment plainly appear to be or to have been crossed as aforesaid, or to have been obliterated, added to, or altered as aforesaid, shall not be in any way responsible or incur any liability, nor shall such payment be questioned, by reason of such cheque having been so crossed as aforesaid, or having been so obliterated, added to, or altered as aforesaid, and of his having paid the same to a person other than a banker, or other than the banker with whose name such cheque or draft shall have been so crossed, unless such banker shall have acted *malâ fide*, or been guilty of negligence in so paying such cheque."

Another great improvement, and one which will operate to protect the true owner of a cheque from attempts to erase the crossing, is the following:—

"Any person who shall obliterate, add to, or alter any such crossing with intent to defraud, or offer, utter, dispose of, or put off with intent to defraud, any cheque or draft on a banker, whereon such fraudulent

obliteration, addition, or alteration has been made, knowing it to have been so made, shall be guilty of felony, and any person convicted thereof shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be transported beyond the seas for life, or to such other punishment as is enacted and provided for those guilty of forgery of bills of exchange, in the statute in that case made and provided."

We think the measure is now as nearly perfect as it can be, but it is impossible to foresee all the cases of difficulty or hardship which may hereafter arise under it. We trust, however, it will be found beneficial to the public, and, guarded as it now is, we do not think it will require from bankers any more care than they will readily bestow. There is some talk of an attempt in the next session to alter the Act by depriving the banker of the protection it gives; but when the subject is understood, we think those who threaten this course will abandon their intention. It seems impossible with any reason to argue that a banker shall be liable for paying a cheque otherwise than to another cashier, if he cannot by inspection ascertain that such cheque has ever been crossed. The Act received the Royal assent on the 2nd of August, 1858, and is the 21 & 22 Vict., cap. 79 :—

An Act to amend the Law relating to Cheques or Drafts on Bankers.

Whereas it is expedient to amend the law relating to cheques or drafts on bankers: be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

I. Whenever a cheque or draft on any banker, payable to bearer, or to order, on demand, shall be issued, crossed with the name of a banker, or with two transverse lines with the words "and company" or any abbreviation thereof, such crossing shall be deemed a material part of the cheque or draft, and, except as hereafter mentioned, shall not be obliterated or added to or altered by any person whomsoever after the issuing thereof; and the banker upon whom such cheque or draft shall be drawn shall not pay such cheque or draft to any other than the banker with whose name such cheque or draft shall be so crossed, or if the same be crossed as aforesaid without a banker's name, to any other than a banker.

II. Whenever any such cheque or draft shall have been issued uncrossed, or shall be crossed with the words "and company" or any abbreviation thereof, and without the name of any banker, any lawful holder of such cheque or draft, while the same remains so uncrossed, or crossed with the words "and company" or any abbreviation thereof, without the name of any banker, may cross the same with the name of a banker; and whenever any such cheque or draft shall be uncrossed, any such lawful holder may cross the same with the words "and company" or any abbreviation thereof, with or without the name of a banker; and any such crossing as in this section mentioned shall be deemed a material part of the cheque or draft, and shall not be obliterated or added to or altered by any person whomsoever after the making thereof; and the banker upon whom such cheque or draft shall be drawn shall not pay such cheque or draft to any

other than the banker with whose name such cheque or draft shall be so crossed as last aforesaid.

III. If any person shall obliterate, add to, or alter any such crossing with intent to defraud, or offer, utter, dispose of, or put off with intent to defraud, any cheque or draft on a banker, whereon such fraudulent obliteration, addition, or alteration has been made, knowing it to have been so made, such person shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the discretion of the court, to be transported beyond the seas for life, or to such other punishment as is enacted and provided for those guilty of forgery of bills of exchange in the statute in that case made and provided.

IV. Provided always, That any banker paying a cheque or draft which does not at the time when it is presented for payment plainly appear to be or to have been crossed as aforesaid, or to have been obliterated, added to, or altered as aforesaid, shall not be in any way responsible or incur any liability, nor shall such payment be questioned by reason of such cheque having been so crossed as aforesaid, or having been so obliterated, added to, or altered as aforesaid, and of his having paid the same to a person other than a banker, or other than the banker with whose name such cheque or draft shall have been so crossed, unless such banker shall have acted *malâ fide*, or been guilty of negligence in so paying such cheque.

V. In the construction of this Act the word "banker" shall include any person or persons, or corporation, or joint stock company, acting as a banker or bankers.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. SEAMAN AND KEEN.

At a meeting of creditors of Messrs. Seaman and Keen, silk manufacturers, who stopped in July, it was resolved to accept a composition of 4*s.* in the pound, payable in two instalments. The liabilities were stated at £6,112 only, and the assets at £1,224.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. HYDE, HODGE AND CO.

A meeting of creditors of Messrs. Hyde, Hodge and Co., merchants, who stopped on the 4th, took place on the 14th August, when the following statement was presented by Messrs. Coleman, Turquand, Youngs and Co., accountants:—

Dr.

To creditors unsecured.—					
Open account	£44,587	13	2		
Bills payable	55,651	19	0		
				£100,239	12 2
To creditors in Honduras—					
To creditors partially secured—					
Claims	103,213	0	11		
Estimated value of securities	44,100	0	0		
				59,113	0 11
				£159,352	13 1

To creditors fully secured :—								
Estimated value of security	£16,255	8	2					
Claims	12,325	3	11					
Surplus per contra ...	3,930	4	3					
To liabilities on bills payable, partially covered and good	7,550	10	1					
To liabilities on bills receivable	209,533	10	10					
Considered good	76,146	10	0					
Covered by credit balances	47,106	15	2					
The balance amounting to May rank against this estate	86,280	5	8		86,280	5	8	
	£209,533	10	10					
Cr.								
By debtors :—								
Considered good ...	...	...			£8,540	17	9	
Considered doubtful ...	£8,935	18	1					
Estimated at ...	1,350	0	0		1,350	0	0	
	7,585	18	1					
Considered bad ...	4,774	3	0					
	£12,360	1	1					
							9,890	17	9
By bills receivable :—								
Estimated to produce							£300	0	0
By property :—								
Mahogany in docks, valued at	400	0	0					
One eighth share of ship Maria Gray	1,000	0	0					
							1,400	0	0
By surplus securities, per contra :—								
Arising from goods, estimated at	500	0	0					
Arising from bills, good, estimated at	1,350	5	0					
	1,850	5	0				1,850	5	0
Arising from bills, doubtful	2,079	19	3		2,079	19	3	
	£3,930	4	3					
				Carried forward			£13,441	2	9

Abstract of the Annual Balance-sheet of the Company, 9th June, 1858.

LIABILITIES.

Capital of the bank		£807,380	0 0
Reserved surplus fund		130,000	0 0
Circulation		343,757	0 0
Deposits		2,460,829	5 6
Surplus for the year		67.228	19 0
		£3,809,195	4 6

ASSETS.

Bills discounted at head office and branches		£1,559,876	4 4
Credit accounts, ditto		853,999	15 11
Bank buildings at Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Ayr, Cupar, Bo'ness, and Anstruther		30,800	0 0
Investments in Consols and other securities	£397,658 10 3		
Balances due by other banks	270,839 12 0		
		668,498	2 3
Gold and silver coin and notes of other banks on hand, and cash balances with London bankers		696,021	2 0
		£3,809,195	4 6

Appropriation of Surplus.

Dividend on £807,380, capital of the bank, at 7 per cent.	£56,516	12 0
Reserved surplus fund (which will now amount to £140,000)	10,000	0 0
Balance carried to next year's account	712	7 0
	£67,228	19 0

The report was unanimously adopted, and the meeting separated.

THE SHEFFIELD AND HALLAMSHIRE BANK.

The twenty-second general annual meeting of the shareholders of this bank was held at the Cutler's Hall, Sheffield, on Friday, July 23rd, Mr. J. B. Brown, in the chair, when the following report was read :—

Since the directors last met the shareholders great pressure has existed in the money market. This at one time amounted to a panic of considerable intensity. In times like these the directors' duties become more arduous. They have to exercise a careful discrimination in rendering aid to customers. It will be satisfactory for the shareholders to know that the resources of the bank were quite ample to furnish all the legitimate assistance asked for. Notwithstanding the extent and severity of the pressure above alluded to, the bad debts are smaller in amount than the average. They are only £293 11*s.* 10*d.* It is a matter of much congratulation that the bank passed through such a period with so small a loss, and likewise succeeded in earning a considerably increased profit. The profit of the year is £22,668 16*s.* 2*d.* For the half-year, ending 31st December last, the directors paid a dividend after the rate of 10 per

cent. per annum. They have declared a dividend after the same rate for the half-year ending 30th June last. They have also declared a bonus of 2½ per cent. for the year. The dividend and bonus, without deduction of income-tax, may be received at the bank on or after Tuesday, the 27th instant. The balance of profit, remaining after payment of the dividend and bonus, is £2,538 6*s.* 10*d.* This has been carried to the surplus fund. That fund now stands at £36,475 16*s.* 10*d.* The directors impress upon the shareholders that the profit of the year is exceptional, and wish them not to anticipate for the current year so large a return upon their capital. At the same time they may say, that they fully believe the dividend of 10 per cent. will be maintained. Benjamin Burdekin, of Glossop-road, retires by rotation from the board. The directors nominate William Cockayne, of Norton Lees, as incoming director. The directors wish to express their high opinion of the ability, sound judgment and unwearied vigilance, which the manager has at all times evinced in promoting the welfare of the bank. The other officers of the bank have efficiently discharged their respective duties. In conclusion, the directors have to state that new and valuable connections have been formed during the year, and that they are well satisfied with the operations and position of the bank.

General Balance of the Bank, 30th June, 1858.

LIABILITIES.

Cr.			
Paid-up capital of £25 per share on 6,349 shares ...	£158,725	0	0
Surplus fund	36,475	16	10
Due by the bank on current accounts, deposit receipts (including interest to this day), notes in circulation, and interest on bills in the bank	232,008	16	6
Dividend for the half-year after the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, on paid-up capital of £158,725	7,936	5	0
Bonus at the rate of 12*s.* 6*d.* per share on 6,349 shares, being 2½ per cent. on the paid-up capital	3,968	2	6
	£439,114	0	10

ASSETS.

Dr.			
Cash in the bank, bills discounted, balances owing by customers, and other securities	£434,114	0	10
Bank premises and furniture	5,000	0	0
	£439,114	0	10

Profit and Loss.

Dr.			
To dividend for the half-year ending 31st December, 1857, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, on £158,650 paid-up capital	£7,932	10	0
Dividend for the half-year ending 30th June, 1858, at the same rate, on £158,725 paid-up capital ...	7,936	5	0
Bonus of 12*s.* 6*d.* per share on 6,349 shares, being 2½ per cent. on the paid-up capital	3,968	2	6
Losses	293	11	10
Balance carried down	36,475	16	10
	£56,606	6	2

Cr.			
By balance of unappropriated profits, 30th June, 1857 ...	£33,937	10	0
Amount of profits after payment of expenses and income-tax	22,668	16	2
	£56,606	6	2
Balance of unappropriated profits brought down, being surplus fund	£36,475	16	10

The Chairman having briefly addressed the meeting on the position and prospects of the bank, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

That the report and statement of the general balance, and profit and loss, which have been read, be approved by this meeting; and that the same be printed, and a copy thereof sent to each shareholder.

That William Cockayne be elected a director in the place of Benjamin Burdekin, who retires from office by rotation.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the directors for their valuable services; and that the sum of five hundred pounds be presented to them from the funds of the company.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the manager for the able and courteous manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the other officers of the bank, for the attentive and obliging manner which they have manifested in their respective departments.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the chairman.

THE WESTERN BANK OF LONDON.

A GENERAL meeting of the shareholders in this company was held at the bank, 21, Hanover-square, on the 29th July. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. A. Roebuck, M.P., and there was a numerous attendance.

Mr. George Sheward, the secretary, read the following report and statement of accounts:—

"The directors have much satisfaction in laying before the proprietors a statement of the affairs of the bank at the close of the second year of its existence. The proprietors must be aware that since their last general meeting there has occurred a commercial panic of unprecedented severity, and the directors hope that the proprietors will be glad to learn that notwithstanding the difficulties which arose from this state of things, there has been a steady increase in the business of the bank, as well as an augmentation of its assets and liabilities, although this improvement has not been followed by a large amount of profits. The directors beg to inform the proprietors that the surplus ground in Brook-street, adjoining the bank, has been let on lease for ninety-nine years, at a rental of £300 per annum. It will be seen by the subjoined balance-sheet that, after paying interest to customers on their deposit and current accounts amounting to £7,130 11*s.* 6*d.*, writing off all bad debts and discharging current expenses, there remains a balance of £5,502 12*s.* 2*d.*, which, after providing £1,192 0*s.* 4*d.* for rebate of interest on bills not due, the directors propose to appropriate in the following manner:—

To reduction of amount of preliminary expenses	£1,000	0	0
Depreciation of bank premises and furniture	300	0	0
Balance carried to profit and loss (new account) ...	3,010	11	10

The proprietors will perceive that this appropriation exhausts the whole sum at the disposal of the directors. The retiring directors are:—J. H. R. Chichester, Esq., Edward Huggins, Esq., and David W. Wire, Esq. The two last of these gentlemen being eligible, offer themselves for re-election, and a notice has been received from Mr. Walter Lacy Rogers, 39, Montague-square, that he intends to offer himself as a candidate for a seat in the direction.

Liabilities and Assets, June 30, 1858.

Dr.

Subscribed capital	£400,000	0	0
To paid-up capital, £50 per share on 4,000 shares ...	£200,000	0	0
Amount due by the bank on current accounts, deposit receipts, interest accrued, &c.	228,621	19	10
Reserve fund	2,243	16	0
Profit and loss account	5,502	12	2
	£436,368	8	0

Cr.

By Government securities (present value £79,831 14*s.* 8*d.*)	£79,832	13	0
Bills discounted, promissory notes, loans on security, &c.	277,158	16	1
Cash in hand and at the Bank of London	36,658	5	2
Freehold premises in Hanover-square, and premises in Brook-street, building and alterations, and fitting for offices, and house furniture	30,718	13	9
Preliminary expenses	12,000	0	0
	£436,368	8	0

Profit and Loss Account.

Dr.

To rebate of interest on bills not yet due	£1,192	0	4
Amount written off preliminary expenses	1,000	0	0
Amount set apart for depreciation of bank premises and furniture	300	0	0
Balance carried to profit and loss (new account) ...	3,010	11	10
	£5,502	12	2

Cr.

By balance brought down	£5,502	12	2

The Chairman then said it became his duty to propose to the shareholders that they should accept the report they had just heard read, but before doing so he would beg to call to their recollection the circumstances under which the bank was established. They would not fail to remember that when they started into existence they had to encounter difficulties of no ordinary description. These difficulties were of two sorts, the first were common to them as to all the public, and the second peculiar to the bank itself, and he would, with their permission, make a few observations on both heads. The difficulties common to them, as with all the public, were of course known to all the public, but he would remind them that at the time when the Western Bank of London was established there was in the

public mind great distrust in joint-stock banks, caused by the misconduct of certain individuals who had instituted joint-stock banks, and since they last met they had gone through a commercial panic—he used no other term—of severity that he thought almost unprecedented since the Bank resumed cash payments. (Hear, hear.) The circumstances he had referred to told against them even at the very beginning; but when those matters were considered, and when it was remembered that they had weathered the storm, while other and more powerful institutions of a similar character had either been shaken to the foundation or actually brought to the ground, he thought no small credit was due to those who, by their ability, energy, and caution, had brought about such an accomplishment. (Hear, hear.) But, besides all the adverse circumstances to which he had directed their attention, he felt sure he might repeat they had been surrounded by difficulties of a most peculiar character; and amongst them they had been unfortunate enough to be dragged into litigation in spite of themselves. But he was happy to say that in every case they had been successful, while their opponents had been condemned in costs—showing that they had been justified in every step they had taken, while the conduct of those who had opposed them was anything but justifiable. (Cheers.) Then there were other matters to which he might refer; he might allude to many rumours which no doubt had assailed the ears of every gentleman present—he was sure they had assailed his ears in almost all directions. Why, one person actually met him the other day, and addressed him somewhat to this effect, "Now, why do you still hang on to that Western Bank of London? It is no use. It is gone. It will never do. You have lost half your capital. It is a bad concern. Get out of it as soon as you can." He was their representative—he was not unmindful of the trust they had reposed in him—and, knowing all that had been done, he had answered every one of those rumours by the boldest declaration that they were untrue (hear, hear); and he now appealed to their balance-sheet in support of what he had said. (Hear, hear.) In that balance-sheet there was an item which perhaps demanded explanation, and he was there to explain that and everything else that might be required. By the accounts it would appear that the charges for current expenses and bad and doubtful debts amounted to a little over £10,000. Now, an enemy of the bank would lump them in one item, and it would be said, "What a bank this must be, that has, in so short a period and with a comparatively small amount of business, made bad and doubtful debts to the extent of over £10,000." While other unfriendly disposed persons would exclaim, "What an extravagant bank this is; why, its current expenses amount to £10,000." Now he would not take the sum in a lump. He would divide bad debts and current expenses, and what then did it show? Why that the charges for current expenses amounted to a little more than £5,000, and the bad and doubtful debts to £4,973; and, considering they were an infant establishment—considering the severe commercial crisis which took place at a time when they had to conciliate the public, and considering the many difficulties by which they had been surrounded, he would ask whether that was not a satisfactory state of affairs? (Hear, hear.) It must not be forgotten that they were not at the time in the position of the London and Westminster Bank, who, had they thought proper, could have told their customers they would have nothing to do with them—they had, as he had before mentioned, to conciliate the public. They had to be polite to all comers, with a view of extending the business of the bank. And he would ask whether they had not effected great things? Dealing largely with the whole mercantile world at a time of great commercial distress, and when they were

surrounded by difficulties of an almost unparalleled description, they had only made a loss of £5,000. He assured the shareholders that they had written off every bad debt, and in spite of the rumours that they had spent more than half their capital, he had the greatest pleasure in being able to state that their loss only amounted to £5,000. (Cheers.) The chairman then proceeded to say that a certain number of joint-stock banks had recently published their accounts, and it was a curious fact that while, with but one exception, they all showed a diminution in the amount of their business—their liabilities and assets having fallen short of what they were last year—their own infant establishment showed an increase during the same period to the extent of £36,000. (Hear, hear) And that had taken place in spite of all the rumours, all the adverse circumstances of the times, and all the peculiar difficulties by which the bank, from its very commencement, had been surrounded; and in addition they had earned a net profit of £5,000. (Hear, hear.) Such being the state of affairs, he would put it to them whether the directors had not done well. They were there that day to give the fullest details of everything in connection with the bank. They desired to keep nothing from the shareholders, whose interests were identical with their own. Mr. Roebuck then referred to the duties of auditors, and informed the meeting that he should not have troubled them with any observations upon that subject but for the statements that had appeared in the public prints. Now, what were the duties of auditors? Certainly not, as was by some supposed, to guide the directors, but to be a check upon the conductors of the bank, with a view of seeing that the shareholders' money was properly employed. He repeated, that the duty of an auditor was not to guide the directors or the manager, but simply to see that the money entrusted to their keeping should be properly and profitably employed. But at that period he wished to say, that, if any person could discover any transaction in the management of the bank that could not be brought before the light of day, he was prepared to hide his head in shame for ever. But he was satisfied nothing of the kind could be discovered. The course the directors had pursued had been an honest one—he believed an intelligent one—and for himself he wished to say that, as far as his colleagues were concerned, a more thoroughly intelligent, competent, and agreeable body of business men he had never met. No disputes existed amongst them. They had sacrificed everything to the interests of the bank, and were prepared to continue to do so, feeling sure that at no distant period they would be rewarded for their trouble by the successful position the bank would assume. Having referred to the loss the bank had sustained during the past year by the death of two of the directors, the chairman concluded by stating that the history of the bank was now before the meeting. The directors in their report made certain proposals, and it remained with the shareholders whether they should be carried into effect or not, and he therefore proposed that the report be adopted. (Hear.)

Mr. E. Huggins (the deputy-chairman), in seconding the motion, expressed a confident belief that the shareholders would not hereafter regret that they were connected with the bank, which he believed was destined to occupy a prominent position in the commercial world. (Hear.)

Dr. Bennett wished to be informed whether, in the item relating to bad and doubtful debts, &c., past-due bills were included?

The chairman replied that there were certain bills protected by securities which were not written off.

Dr. Bennett said perhaps the chair man would state the amount?

The Chairman—Certainly; I am prepared to state everything. There

is a sum of £1,500 not included in the item, but we are morally certain to get it, and therefore it is not necessary to mention it in the balance-sheet.

Dr. Bennett—And does that £1,500, in addition to the item referred to, include everything of the kind?

The Chairman—Yes, that includes everything; and every bill sent in has been paid.

In reply to Mr. Robb,

The Chairman said the directors had never received any remuneration for their services. They had never hinted at such a thing. They had given their services for nothing, and were quite ready to continue to do so.

The report was then adopted unanimously, amidst loud cheers.

The Chairman then proposed that Mr. Huggins should be re-elected a director of the company. The bank, he said, was greatly indebted to Mr. Huggins, for a more active, zealous, or intelligent man of business it was impossible to obtain; and he had no hesitation in saying, that if they studied their own interests the shareholders would elect him. (Hear, hear). He got nothing for his services, and in these days there was very little honour attaching to a bank director, whose duties were all work and no play or pay.

Mr. Arber seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Alderman Wire was also re-elected a director.

Mr. Huggins returned thanks. He assured them that he was greatly interested in the success of the bank, and never hesitated to give his time and labour on its behalf. Having referred to the difficulties which surrounded the bank from its formation, and the manner in which it had withstood all the evil rumours against it, Mr. Huggins expressed his undiminished confidence in its ultimate success, and believed that at no distant period it would be as profitable as any other similar establishment in the country.

Mr. Rogers was not proposed as a director.

Messrs. Nettleton and Unwin were then elected auditors.

The Chairman here announced that for the future it was intended to hold half-yearly meetings.

Mr. Arber then proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the directors, for the care and caution with which they had conducted the affairs of the bank during the past year. No one, he thought, could be dissatisfied with the present aspect of affairs, which had been brought about in consequence of the attention the directors had devoted to the business of the bank. He felt sure that ultimately a good dividend would be paid; and when a dividend was able to be declared, he hoped the first thing that would be done would be to show their confidence in the directors by rewarding them in a substantial manner. Up to the present time they had laboured without remuneration, and he hoped the time would soon arrive when an opportunity would present itself for rewarding them for their eminent services. As for the bad and doubtful debts, considering all things, they were almost unworthy of consideration, and altogether he was satisfied with the prospects of the bank, and saw a bright future in store for them.

Mr. Stohwasser having seconded the motion,

Dr. Bennett apologised for intruding himself so frequently before the meeting, but, like the directors, he took a great interest in the bank, and he wished to know whether, all things considered, the chairman entertained the same opinion as to the necessity for the bank and its ultimate success as when it was first originated. Putting out of the question all the peculiar difficulties, he should like to hear the chairman express his belief as to the opening which existed for the bank in that part of the metropolis, and

whether he believed it would ultimately be a paying concern. Of course the various circumstances that had taken place since its establishment would enable the directors to form a better opinion as to the future, and he should be glad to hear what the chairman had to say.

The Chairman had no hesitation in saying, that, bearing in mind that they had weathered the storm which had caused more powerful institutions to topple over, and that they had triumphed over all the adversities which had beset them from the beginning, he was even more sanguine than he was a year ago that the bank would ultimately become a most prosperous concern, returning a good interest upon the money the shareholders had invested in it. (Hear.)

Mr. Clack, the manager, also expressed the fullest confidence in the concern; and with thirty-five years of banking experience believed that within a comparatively brief period the bank would pay a dividend of 5 per cent.

The vote of thanks was then carried by acclamation.

The Chairman returned thanks, and said he believed the directors had all done their duty, and the shareholders had not done more than their duty in thanking them. The directors, in whatever they did, always consulted the interests of the shareholders, whose good opinion they were anxious to retain.

Mr. Huggins hoped that the shareholders generally would not forget what had taken place at that meeting; and if they were sincere in their anxiety for the success of the undertaking, to evince it in a substantial manner by immediately opening accounts at the bank. Looking over the list of customers, he was sorry to find so few of the shareholders, who, having confidence enough in the directors to allow them to invest their money, ought to increase that confidence by banking at their own establishment. It was only just and reasonable that they should do so; and he trusted his appeal to them would not be in vain.

A cordial vote of thanks was then given to Mr. Clack, the general manager, for the eminent manner in which he had discharged the duties of his office, and

On the motion of Mr. Arber the sum of thirty guineas was voted to the auditors for their services during the past year.

Mr. Clack, in returning thanks, reiterated his opinion that the bank would rapidly increase in value, and that the shareholders would obtain a good return for their money.

The proceedings then terminated.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNION BANK.

The directors of this bank held their half-yearly meeting on Monday the 26th July. The auditors' report, which was laid before them, showed the profit for the half-year ending the 30th June last to be (with the surplus £866 1*s.* 5*d.* brought forward on the 1st of January) £13,785 18*s.* 1*d.*, which was appropriated as follows:—

Dividend of 8*s.* per share	£10,600 0 0
Income tax	344 13 0
Surplus carried to next half-year...	2,841 5 1
	£13,785 18 1

The guarantee fund remained as at the last report, viz., £50,000 Consols and the bank buildings.

WHITEHAVEN JOINT-STOCK BANKING COMPANY.

The shareholders of this company held their twenty-ninth annual meeting at the bank, in Lowther-street, on Monday August 2nd, Mr. A. B. Steward, High Sheriff of the county, in the chair.

Mr. Cameron, the manager, read the report of the directors, which was of a highly satisfactory character, and recommended a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent., free of income-tax, on the paid-up capital of the bank, besides leaving a balance of £1,363 16*s.* to be carried to the credit of next year's account; the surplus fund remaining as formerly at £15,000.

Mr. Joseph Benn, of Lowther, being the retiring director, was re-elected. The Chairman moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded and unanimously approved; and after moving cordial votes of thanks to the directors and managers, for their valuable and successful services during the past year, the meeting separated.

BANK OF LONDON.

The third annual general meeting of the proprietors of this bank was held on the 3rd August at the London Tavern, for the reception of the directors' report, to declare a dividend, and on other business. Sir John Villiers Shelley, Bart., M.P. (the chairman of the board of directors), presided.

The Secretary read the following report:—

The directors, in submitting the accounts to the 30th of June, 1858, have the satisfaction of reporting that the bank has materially extended its business connection since the last meeting of the proprietors, and that, although commerce has been inactive, yet the operations of the bank have been sound and profitable. It will be seen that the sum of £24,631 18*s.* 2*d.* stands to credit of profit and loss account for the past half-year, after payment of interest to customers. Out of this sum have been defrayed current expenses at the two establishments, directors' remuneration, and income-tax, which, together with bad and doubtful debts, amounts to £9,974 2*s.* 11*d.* The directors have placed to credit of profit and loss new account £2,292 13*s.* 1*d.*, as rebate of interest on bills not matured. They now declare a dividend for the half-year, upon the paid-up capital of the bank, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax. From the balance remaining at disposal after these appropriations the directors have applied £1,000 in reduction of preliminary expenses, and £200 towards the cost of the lease of premises at the Charing-cross branch. They have also added the sum of £3,320 8*s.* 2*d.* to the reserve or guarantee fund, which now amounts to £8,000, and the balance, viz., £344 14*s.*, they carry forward to profit and loss new account. The proprietors will be called on to elect three directors in the places of John Edmund Anderson, Esq., Thomas Luce, Esq., M.P., and Alfred Wilson, Esq., who retire under the provisions of the charter, but, being eligible, they offer themselves, and the directors recommend them, for re-election. The time has now arrived for filling up the vacancy announced at the last meeting. Robert Porter, Henry Aste, and William Fitchew, Esqrs., being duly qualified, have respectively given notice of their intention to offer themselves for the vacant seat. The shareholders will at the same meeting be called upon to elect two or more of their number as auditors for the year ensuing.

Liabilities and Assets, June 30, 1858.

Dr.			
To capital paid up	£300,000	0	0
Reserve fund and half-year's interest, at 4 per cent.	4,679	11	10
Amount due by the bank on current, deposit, and other accounts	1,059,352	0	8
Amount carried to credit of "Profit and Loss" account	24,631	18	2
	£1,388,663	10	8
Cr.			
By investments, viz.:—In Government and other securities	£185,361	15	0
Freehold premises in Threadneedle-street	75,000	0	0
Bills discounted, loans, &c.	976,735	11	10
Cash in hand	142,334	9	8
Preliminary expenses	6,617	5	5
Lease and buildings at Charing-cross branch, furniture, &c.	2,614	8	9
	£1,388,663	10	8

Profit and Loss Account.

Dr.			
To half a year's current expenses at head office and Charing-cross branch, bad and doubtful debts, income-tax, directors' remuneration, &c.	£9,974	2	11
Rebate of interest on bills discounted not yet due, carried to profit and loss new account	2,292	13	1
Amount written off	1,200	0	0
Dividend at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ending June 30th, 1858	7,500	0	0
Amount carried to credit of reserve fund	3,320	8	2
Balance carried to profit and loss, new account ...	344	14	0
	£24,631	18	2
Cr.			
By balance of profit brought from last and current half-years	£24,631	18	2

The Chairman then said it became his duty to propose to the proprietors that the secretary's report be received and printed, and that a copy be sent round to each proprietor; and in making that motion, he was glad to think that it would not be necessary for him to detain them with any lengthened observations. He hoped that the report spoke for itself, and as those meetings were more for the transaction of business than speech-making, it was not desirable that he should make any long statement as to the contents of that report. He might, however, congratulate them upon having been able to realise such a very satisfactory amount of business during the past half-year. (Hear, hear). The current accounts, which they might know was always the most profitable of banking business, had most materially increased; but the deposit accounts had in this, as in most other banks, decreased. He did not think it would be right, neither did he deem it necessary, to draw a comparison between this and other banks; but he

said, let them continue to conduct the bank as they had done from its infancy. He hoped he might be forgiven for saying that the directors had done their duty (hear, hear); for he believed the bank was in a position which, if they continued to steadily conduct it, would make for it the best business of any bank in London. He then said he should be most happy to answer any question which the shareholders might put to him, as the directors were willing and ready to give every information that was in their power. It then only remained—as it always had done—for the proprietors to assist the directors, by bringing all their accounts to the bank, by doing which they would establish it as one of the most profitable concerns in which they could enlist. In conclusion, he moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. J. Griffiths Frith (the deputy-chairman) said he entirely agreed in all the statements which had been made by their honourable chairman. If they could now depend on the energies of the shareholders they would have a most profitable business; the bank, having already established a good business, only required the assistance of the shareholders to enable it to continue increasing. He therefore had great pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report.

Mr. Fitchew, before the motion was put, wished to ask a question with regard to the amount (£24,631) returned in the report to the profit and loss account. He wished to know if that was *bona fide* profit arising from the trading of the bank, or whether any portion of it arose from the sale (with a profit) or the re-valuation of any of the securities in hand?

The Chairman said that £1,800 had been forfeited by the resale of stock, and there had been a re-valuation of the securities of about ¼ per cent.

Mr. Fitchew observed the current expenses for the half-year were placed at £9,974 2*s.* 11*d.* He should like to know how much of that was for bad debts? He did not wish the particulars to be gone into, but merely one point answered.

The Chairman, in answer to the question, said that nothing could be more satisfactory than the bad debts for the past half-year; in fact, they were almost nil. He might observe that they had written off £3,000 of the bad debts previously incurred.

Mr. Fitchew said that did not exactly answer his question. He wanted to know the bad debts incurred during the past half-year?

The Chairman said they were under £300. (Hear.)

Mr. Frederick Russell wished to ask one simple question given rise to by those previously asked, and that was relative to the ¼ per cent. re-valuation of the Government securities. The answer did not show the amount obtained by that re-valuation.

The Chairman said it was almost impossible then to give the exact figures. He merely gave the ¼ per cent. as a rough guess. The securities stood at £185,361 15*s.*, and the re-valuation would give about £400.

Mr. George Kerry said that, at looking on the assets in this and the previous report, he found them to be of a totally different character with respect to Government securities. The last half-year they were upwards of £300,000, and in the present report they only stood at £185,361 15*s.*

Mr. Russell repeated his question that he wanted to know what amount of the £24,361 carried to profit and loss account was made by the sale and re-valuation of the Government securities.

The Chairman replied that £1,800 was forfeited by the resale of stock, and about £400 by the re-valuation.

Mr. Russell asked what was the previous amount of Government securities.

The Chairman said that at December last they were £310,393 11*s.* 6*d.* He wished to observe, in reply to Mr. Kerry's observations as to the decrease in the amount of Government securities, that at a previous meeting the directors were reminded that they had too much money locked up in the Government securities (hear, hear), and that was the cause of the directors reducing the amount. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Kerry thought it would satisfy their friend, Mr. Russell, by referring him to the fact that they had now £142,000 ready money, which was very different to the amount in the last report. (Hear, hear.)

The report was then unanimously adopted.

The Chairman said it then became his duty to announce that the dividend for the half-year, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, would be payable on and after Monday next, the 9th instant, at the head office in Threadneedle-street. (Hear, hear.) The next business was to proceed with the election of four directors. John Edmund Anderson, Esq., Thomas Luce, Esq., M.P., and Alfred Wilson, Esq., were the three who retired by rotation, and were eligible for re-election. There were three candidates for the fourth vacancy—viz., Messrs. Porter, Aste, and Fitchew.

Mr. Henry Aste said, his name having been announced as a candidate, he wished to inform the meeting that it was not his intention to contest his seat on that occasion with his excellent friend, Mr. Porter. (Hear, hear.) He also understood it was the intention of Mr. Fitchew to withdraw. (Hear, hear.) The short time that he had known Mr. Porter he had so gained on his (Mr. Aste's) confidence that he would not oppose him. He was a gentleman of integrity and honesty, and no man had a better knowledge of monetary matters than his friend. He should, however, offer himself for re-election as an auditor.

The Chairman, in answer to a question, said he thought it would not be right to state the number of shares held by each candidate. (Hear, hear.) By the charter the directors were bound to see that each candidate had forty shares, and he thought if that was done it was quite sufficient.

Mr. Anderson, Mr. Luce, M.P., and Mr. Wilson, the retiring directors, were re-elected.

Mr. J. T. King briefly, but in eulogistic terms, proposed the nomination of Mr. Robert Porter for the vacant seat.

Mr. Fitchew seconded the motion, and in doing so explained his reasons for coming forward as a candidate, believing that although they had some good City men on the board, yet the West-end interests were not there sufficiently represented. He should, however, withdraw his pretensions, and with every pleasure second the motion.

Mr. R. W. Cockman wished to know if Mr. Benjamin Scott, the chamberlain of the City of London, was eligible?

Some discussion ensued, in which it was advised that the question should be allowed to rest for the present. Mr. Cockman was ultimately informed that there was a legal difficulty in the way of electing Mr. Scott, as notice of his candidature was required.

The Chairman said he felt sure Mr. Scott was and always would be a warm friend of the company, and the matter then dropped.

Mr. Porter was then unanimously elected, and, in returning thanks for the honour conferred on him, promised to perform the duties of the office to which they had elected him with integrity, fidelity and zeal, and it should always be his earnest endeavour to further extend the operations of the company. The shareholders must, however, bear in mind that they

were all members of one firm, and that if every member were to bring a customer each to the bank, it would have the effect of considerably increasing its business. Hear. He felt that such efforts would in a very short space of time place their bank on a par with the other large banks in the metropolis. Hear, hear.

Messrs. Acte. Hartley and Thomson were then elected as auditors.

The directors having returned thanks for their re-election, and the auditors for their election.

The Chairman moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting hereby authorises the directors to call the ordinary meetings on any day between the 1st of July and the 8th of August, as they may appoint." He explained the object of the resolution to be that, as they had progressed so far, they could make up their accounts at an earlier date, and it was felt desirable to hold their meetings at the same time as the other large banks.

Mr. J. Griffiths Frith seconded the resolution, which was put and carried unanimously.

Mr. Fitchew then said he hoped the meeting would not separate without in some way offering the congratulations of the shareholders to Mr. Benjamin Scott, their late secretary, on his appointment as City Chamberlain. He should, in the absence of any other hon. proprietor, move the following:—"That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Benjamin Scott, for the energies he displayed during his connection with the bank, as secretary, and that they desire to convey to him their sincere congratulations on his appointment as chamberlain."

Mr. W. H. Mann seconded the motion, which was supported by

The Chairman, who said the directors had always received the greatest assistance from Mr. Scott, and they would feel very uncomfortable if they thought he would cease to have an interest in the welfare of the bank. He wished to inform the meeting that the directors had already written to Mr. Scott, congratulating him on receiving the reward of his meritorious services. (Cheers.)

The motion was then carried unanimously.

Mr. King then moved, "That the best thanks of the proprietors be given to the chairman and the board of directors for their judicious management of the affairs of the bank during the past year.

Mr. Russell having briefly seconded the motion, it was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman begged, on behalf of himself and colleagues, to thank the proprietors for the compliment. If they had had hard work, they were gratified to find that the proprietors thanked them for the manner in which they had done it, and told them they had done good service to the cause. He could only say that if they went on as they had, and continued to be assisted by the manager and his staff in the same way as hitherto, they should have smooth water before them, and that it would be their own faults if anything occurred to mar the pleasure which had aways existed at their meetings. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Porter then proposed a vote of thanks to the manager and other officers for the efficient discharge of their duties. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. Griffiths Frith hoped he should not be out of order in seconding the motion, but he wished to bear his testimony to their officers; for he thought that there was not a better-arranged staff altogether, from the manager downward, in any office than in the Bank of London. The staff was so efficiently arranged, and worked so unanimously, that the business went on like clockwork.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Marshall, the manager, briefly returned thanks, and the meeting separated.

LONDON DISCOUNT COMPANY.

THE second ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at the London Tavern, on the 3rd of August, for the reception of the report. Mr. W. Scholefield, M.P., the chairman of the company, presided.

The advertisement convening the meeting having been read,

The Secretary read the report, which stated that the net profit for the half-year ending the 30th of June last, after the payment of current expenses, making ample provision for loss on overdue bills, and allowing for the rebate of interest upon bills not matured, amounted to £10,874 7*s.* 4*d.* With so favourable a result the directors had deemed it advisable to write off the balance of preliminary expenses, amounting to £3,000; thus leaving an available surplus of £7,874 7*s.* 4*d.* This sum enabled the directors to recommend a dividend for the past half-year at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, which would amount to £4,548 14*s.* 2*d.*, leaving a balance of £3,325 13*s.* 2*d.* to be carried to the next half-yearly account.

The Chairman briefly moved the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, which, having been seconded, was agreed to.

BIRMINGHAM TOWN AND DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY.

THE twenty-second annual general meeting of the proprietors was held at Dee's Royal Hotel, on Tuesday, the 10th of August, Mr. John Ogden Bacchus, in the chair.

The following report was read:—

In accordance with the deed of settlement you are called together to hear a report of the success which has attended the operations of the bank since our last general meeting. This period, you are aware, has been marked by some of the severest trials to the monetary and commercial public ever known; and many houses of long standing, who enjoyed the reputation of good credit, have fallen under the general pressure; so that it has been very difficult to escape from making bad debts in effecting the ordinary and usual transactions connected with banking operations. The proprietors will, however, be pleased to learn that the bank has passed through this ordeal without any loss that would require an alteration in its previous rate of dividend, and also that the gross amount of profit, which has been made during this period, indicates an increase of business connections, notwithstanding the flatness which has prevailed over the trade of the town during the last six months. The accounts, as made up to the 30th of June last, have been carefully examined by the directors, and after payment of the income-tax on the previous profits, the usual expenses incident to the business, and after deducting from this year's profit a sufficient sum to cover the bad debts, there remains a net profit on the year of £13,289 4*s.* The directors, therefore, propose to declare a dividend for the last half-year of 5*s.* per share, and a bonus of 2*s.* 6*d.* per share, payable on or after the 1st of September next, free from income-tax, which makes, with the March dividend, 15 per cent. per annum upon the paid-up capital of £75,000. In addition to the above amount of profit, there remained a surplus from last year's division of £3,755 1*s.* 1*d.*, which

the directors recommend to be appropriated to cover a loss they thought it prudent to submit to, in order to realise the Soho securities. They feel assured that the proprietors will approve of this application of the sum in question, when they are informed that it will enable the directors to write off the entire balance for which those securities were held. If this proposal be consented to by the meeting, the profit account and its appropriation will be clearly shown by the following statement:—

Profit.

Amount brought forward from 1857...	£3,755	1	1
Profit on the year to 30th June, 1858	13,289	4	0
Making a total of...	£17,044	5	1

Appropriation of the above.

Paid March dividend and bonus, free of income-tax ...	£5,625	0	0
To September dividend and bonus, free of income-tax ...	5,625	0	0
Balance, Soho account	3,755	1	1
Building account, as usual	100	0	0
Town charities	20	0	0
Carried forward to next year's account	1,919	4	0
	£17,044	5	1

The amount of the guarantee fund remains the same as before, viz., £15,000.

The directors cannot close this report without making allusion to the loss which they have sustained since their last meeting, by the death of Mr. Armfield. He was a most useful and much valued member of the board, and the last of those who twenty-two years ago originated the Birmingham Town and District Banking Company. The directors have appointed Mr. Morris Banks, an old shareholder, and a respectable inhabitant of the town, who, they have every reason to believe, will make a very efficient member of the board.

The following resolutions were then carried unanimously:—

Moved by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr. Charles Ratcliff, that the report now read be received and approved, and that a printed copy be forwarded to each of the shareholders.

Moved by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr. William Dudley, that a dividend of 5*s.* per share, and a bonus of 2*s.* 6*d.* per share, free from income-tax, be now declared for the half year, payable on or after the 1st of September next.

Moved by Mr. W. F. H. Whitehouse, and seconded by Mr. John Perry, that the thanks of the proprietors be presented to the directors for their services during the past year.

Messrs. Thomas Penn and Richard Parry having reported that Messrs. Thomas Goodman, Edwin Gwyther, and Samuel Rawlins had been re-elected as directors,

It was moved by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr. William Bolton, that the thanks of this meeting be given to Messrs. Thomas Penn and Richard Parry for their services in examining the votes for the election of the directors.

Moved by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr. T. P. Chesshire, that the best thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Bassett Smith, the manager, for his continued assiduity in conducting the business of the bank.

Moved by Mr. Samuel Allport, and seconded by Mr. William Dudley, that this meeting desires to record its grateful recollection of the valuable services rendered to the bank, from its commencement, by the late Mr. Armfield, and to express to his family its sympathy in the loss which they have sustained.

Moved by Mr. William Bradley, and seconded by Mr. John Manly, Jun., that the best thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. J. O. Bacchus, for his services in the chair.

BANK OF EGYPT.

A SPECIAL general meeting of this corporation was held at the London Tavern, on the 13th August, for the purpose of receiving the statement of accounts, as audited, for the half-year ending the 30th of June, 1858, and considering a recommendation of the court as to the declaration of a dividend. Mr. W. Tite, M.P., chairman of the board of directors, presided.

The following report and statement of accounts were taken as read:—

"The accounts now presented to the shareholders give the result of the operations of the Bank of Egypt for the half-year ending the 30th June, 1858. Notwithstanding the commercial crisis, which was felt with great severity in Egypt, it is gratifying to the directors to be able to report the continued success of the bank—the profits having exceeded those of any previous half-year. After providing for all charges, both here and in Egypt, the net available profit for the last six months amounts to £16,402 15. 6*d.*, against £14,213 on the 31st December, and £8,221 on the 30th June, 1857. Although the directors propose to pay a dividend on the entire capital, it must be borne in mind that the last call was not wholly paid up till the end of March, and having been appropriated to the establishment of the Cairo branch (which was opened in April last) has not yet added much to the general account. The directors recommend that, after writing off £3,000 to preliminary expenses, a dividend be declared at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, amounting to £8,750. This will leave a balance of £6,026 16*s.* 3*d.*, which it is recommended to carry over to the next account.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS TO JUNE 30.

LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up, viz., 10,000 shares at £25				£250,000	0 0
Reserve fund				5,150	0 0
Bills payable, current and other accounts				340,510	12 1
Profit and loss (balance as below)				14,776	16 3
				£610,437	8 4
ASSETS, &c.					
Cash...	£44,626	13	9		
Bills receivable, advances, and other securities	558,894	10	1		
Office furniture	1,916	4	6		
Total assets				£605,437	8 4
Preliminary expenses	£8,000	0	0		
Less amount written off this half-year ...	3,000	0	0		
				5,000	0 0
				£610,437	8 4

PROFIT AND LOSS. JUNE 30.

Dr.				
To dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the half-year on the paid-up capital payable 21st August			£5,750	0 0
To balance carried to next account...			8,026	16 3
			£14,776	16 3
Cr.				
By net profits for the last six months after providing for rebate of interest, current expenses in London and Egypt, and directors' remuneration ... £16,402 15 6				
Less written off preliminary expenses, as above	3,000	0 0		
			£13,402	15 6
By balance of undivided profits of 31st December, 1857	£1,819	3 9		
Less income-tax, &c.	445	3 0		
			1,374	0 9
			£14,776	16 3

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said, as the business of the bank had progressed in a most satisfactory manner, and the company in all its details been more successful than could have been anticipated, he had no apology to make nor explanation to offer. Nevertheless, he had great pleasure in telling them a few facts, the most important of which were that the gross profits, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, showed an increase equal to 55 per cent., and the net profits, compared with the corresponding period of last year, showed an increase equal to 99 per cent. He thought that was a most satisfactory state of affairs; and he was also glad to be able to state that the expenses for the half-year did not tell more largely against the increased receipts, the ratio to gross profits during the present half-year being 31 per cent., as against 49 per cent. in the first half-year of the establishment of the bank. (Hear, hear.) The chairman then informed the shareholders that a branch had been opened at Cairo, and that the last call had been exclusively devoted to its establishment. Of course, up to the present time, there had been no formal return of the business transacted at the new branch; but if the directors were right in their appreciation of the value of the establishment at Cairo, he had no hesitation in saying that it would ultimately return a large profit—at any rate as much as £4,000 to £5,000 in the half-year. (Cheers). The directors had carefully considered the matter; and they believed they had made a fair estimate, and that the sum he had mentioned would be earned as profit during the first half-year. He had much pleasure in referring to the satisfactory manner in which the bank was managed in Egypt; and in support of that statement he need only mention that during the whole of the recent commercial crisis the bank had not had a single bad or doubtful debt. (Hear, hear.) Under these circumstances he felt he was justified in asking the shareholders to express their satisfaction at the conduct of Messrs. Pasquali, Forssmann, and Ranking, their managers in Egypt. (Hear, hear.) Every transaction had been characterised by the most becoming prudence, and the present satisfactory condition of affairs was the result. No very recent news had been

received in London; the mail was expected during the afternoon, but he did not anticipate anything of importance reaching the directors. They did not anticipate anything to prevent a continuance of their prosperity, and therefore the arrival of the mail was not anxiously looked for. Mr. Tite then directed attention to the fact that a large sum had been devoted, from the half-year's profit, towards the liquidation of the preliminary expenses, the directors thinking it desirable that those expenses should be cleared off as rapidly as possible, in order that the whole of the future profits might be dealt with in dividends and bonuses. Then there was a large sum carried over to the next account; but still sufficient was left to declare a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent., which he suggested should be agreed to on the present occasion, as it would be better to wait until the end of the financial year before they considered the advisability of declaring a bonus, and at that time, if they thought proper, they could declare a most handsome one. In conclusion he moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. Anstruther (deputy-chairman) seconded the motion.

Mr. Hoyes inquired whether the directors intended to erect bank premises at Cairo and Alexandria?

The Chairman replied that he had no reason to believe that any new premises would be required. Their present establishments were adequate to all purposes concerned.

In reply to Mr. Wright,

The Chairman repeated that the branch at Cairo was progressing most satisfactorily, and the directors believed there would be a profit upon the half-year's business of between £4,000 and £5,000.

The report was then put, and adopted unanimously.

The Chairman next proposed, "That, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report, a dividend be declared on the paid-up capital of the company on the 30th of June last at the rate of 7 per cent., free of income tax, payable on the 21st of August."

Mr. Cater seconded the motion.

Mr. Rooper suggested that the dividend should be increased to 8 per cent. That would take another £1,250, which could be obtained by reducing the amount proposed to be devoted to payment of preliminary expenses and the sum to be carried over. He admitted the desirableness of liquidating the preliminary expenses as rapidly as possible, and also increasing the reserve fund; but as the profits for the half-year had been so large, and had been fairly earned, he suggested, although he would not move, that the dividend should be increased to 8 per cent.

Mr. Nicholson supported the recommendation of the directors. He was perfectly satisfied with a dividend of 7 per cent., and hoped it would never be increased until every debt had been paid off, and the reserve fund so enlarged as to meet all possible emergencies in Egypt, financial as well as political.

Mr. Hoyes thought the directors had consulted the interests of the general body of shareholders in recommending a 7 per cent. dividend. He was satisfied with the amount, and he should object to its being increased.

The Chairman explained that, although so large a sum was carried over, it was not proposed to place it all to the reserve fund. It was only suggested to let it rest until the end of the financial year, when the shareholders could consider what should be done with it. It might be devoted to pay a bonus, which then, as he had before remarked, might be a handsome one; and he thought the best way to retain the confidence of all persons in the bank was to pay a steady dividend, and declare what bonuses they thought fit.

Mr. Rooper intimated that he had misunderstood the object of carrying over so large an amount. He was now quite satisfied, and he had only thrown out the increase of dividend as a suggestion to the directors.

The motion was then put and carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Rooper inquired whether the recent Act of Parliament relating to joint-stock banks would affect their bank?

The Solicitor said he had looked into the act, and found that, as at present constituted, the bank could not avail itself of its provisions, which had reference only to banks established under a special act of Parliament. The Bank of Egypt was established under Royal charter, and the liability of shareholders was already limited to double the amount of their shares. Besides, the system of limited liability did not extend to banks issuing notes. The Bank of Egypt was issuing notes, which would increase the success of the bank, and ultimately increase their profits. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Rooper expressed his satisfaction at the explanation of the solicitor, and

The Chairman said he perfectly coincided with his remarks.

On the motion of General Sandys, seconded by Mr. Paravacini, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the chairman and directors, which having been acknowledged, the proceedings terminated.

THE ALLIANCE BANK.

A MEETING of the proprietors of the Alliance Bank took place on the 17th August, Mr. Higgin in the chair. It appears that since the last meeting the committee of the Stock Exchange have again refused to allow the shares to be quoted in the official lists, although the company had fulfilled all the required conditions, and that for this reason several parties are anxious to withdraw from the concern. It is proposed to pay off the latter at par, and applications will be received up to the 15th of next month, to which day the meeting stands adjourned. After the operation the bank will continue to carry on business with the remaining capital. The profits of the past half-year were stated to be £25,000, which will be divided among the proprietors not claiming redemption of their shares.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN CHARTERED BANK.

THE tenth ordinary (half yearly) meeting of the shareholders in this company was held at the offices, 73, Cornhill, on the 19th August, to receive the report of the court of directors, to declare a dividend, and on other business. Mr. C. Johnston (the chairman of the Court of Directors) occupied the chair.

The Secretary read the following report and statement of accounts:—

The directors submit to the proprietors the accompanying statement, showing a balance (after payment of current expenses, and £8,276 0*s.* 3*d.* for interest to customers and depositors) of £14,156 8*s.* 4*d.* at the credit of profit and loss account.

The diminution in the profits of the past six months, as compared with those of the previous half year, arises from the limited extent of exchange operations with the Australian colonies which the directors have thought it prudent to transact, and the allowance of interest on current accounts.

They are glad to inform the proprietors that the practice of giving interest on customers' balances has been discontinued by all the banks in

Sydney, and they hope to hear that a similar determination has been come to at Melbourne.

The directors recommend the following appropriation of the balance of £14,156 8*s.* 4*d.* :—

To the payment of a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, on £500,000, the paid-up capital of the bank	£10,000	0	0
Towards the reduction of the amount of debit of—			
Preliminary expenses	500	0	0
Bank premises and furniture accounts	1,000	0	0
Leaving a balance of	2,656	8	4

The directors have to acquaint the proprietors that the managers have intimated that losses may be apprehended from recent failures and from a depreciation in the value of securities. The estimated amount of such loss is £6,076 8*s.* 3*d.*, which will absorb the balance of £2,656 8*s.* 4*d.*, and require the sum of £3,419 19*s.* 11*d.* to be taken from the reserved fund, reducing it thereby to £6,891 7*s.* 1*d.*

The directors, however, deem it right to add that there are certain outstanding obligations held here which are not included in the above provision for bad debts, from a confident hope that they will be eventually paid.

The directors have the gratification of stating that the business of the bank at the date of the last advices exhibited satisfactory progress.

LIABILITIES.

Paid-up capital	£500,000	0	0
Deposits	428,153	11	7
Bills payable and other liabilities	79,845	7	5
Circulation	96,195	0	0
Reserved fund	10,311	7	0
Amount carried to profit and loss account	24,599	2	9
	£1,139,104	8	9

ASSETS.

Bills receivable, including those over-due, loans on security, cash at bankers', &c.	£841,886	5	7
Specie and bullion	230,096	6	8
Bank premises and furniture	59,541	10	5
Preliminary expenses	7,580	6	1
	£1,139,104	8	9

Profit and Loss Account.

To current expenses in Melbourne, Sydney, and sub-branches	£7,824	8	6
Current expenses in London, including directors' remuneration and income-tax	2,618	5	11
	£10,442	14	5
To balance	14,156	8	4
	£24,599	2	9
By amount brought down	£24,599	2	9

The chairman then proceeded to move the adoption of the report and

statement of accounts, and in doing so said the principal topic in the report to which he had occasion to refer was the diminution of the profits; and this, he might say, arose necessarily from the stagnation of trade in the colony, and the great reduction in the rate of interest paid in this country. The consequence was that the bank was only enabled to employ their funds at a low rate, and thus the diminution of profits had arisen. Still it was very gratifying to state that the company had not lost position in the colony, and it was, on the contrary, expected that eventually it would occupy a position amongst the first undertakings of the sort. The directors had written off the £6,000 bad debts one-half, but it must be borne in mind that those debts were not incurred during the past half-year, as the whole of the bad debts of the past two years had not amounted to that sum. As to the losses, they were caused chiefly by the compulsory realisation of securities held by the bank, that realisation having taken place at a most inconvenient time. Although those items came into the account now presented, yet they had nothing to do with the present state of the bank, as they were merely the result of the depressed state of things which existed in the colonies some time since. Those securities to which he had referred were connected with another party who had failed; but had they (the directors) been enabled to purchase them, the loss would not have occurred; the charter of the bank would not, however, permit them to do so. Still, however, the business of the bank for the half-year had been good, although the extremely low rate of interest had not enabled them to make much profit. He did not know that there was any other topic to which he need allude, but he should be most happy to answer any questions which honourable proprietors might wish to put.

Before resuming his seat, several shareholders wished for some explanation as to the clause in the report referring to the outstanding obligations which were not included in the provision for bad debts, and for the eventual payment of which the directors expressed a confident hope.

The Chairman said, with regard to that portion of the report the directors fully expected that those obligations would be paid. There was some difficulty in the way of his entering into the details of the matter, it being a dispute between two other large companies as to who was entitled to pay them. To speak of the details of that misunderstanding at that meeting would be far from proper, and therefore he hoped it would be sufficiently satisfactory to state that the directors had every reason to believe that the amount would be paid by one or other of the parties. Until something like an arrangement was brought about, it would be injudicious to give any details, and at the same time the doing so would not assist the bank in obtaining the amount. He might say that, if they were to lose it, the whole transaction would be too discreditable to be sanctioned by either of the parties to the dispute.

A Proprietor—What is the amount of those obligations?

The Chairman replied that the sum was £11,600 or thereabouts, and again repeated that the directors had every expectation of its being fully paid. He then concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

Mr. Borradaile seconded the motion.

Mr. Edmonds said he had only just joined the concern, and therefore he hoped he should not be out of order in offering a few observations on the report, although he did not intend to conclude with any resolution against that proposed by the chairman. One of the most important points referred to by the chairman was that relating to the £11,600. It was in amount most important, and he thought that while so large a sum was in jeopardy it would, perhaps, have been as well if no dividend at all had been de-

clared. The chairman had said it would, perhaps, be better not to go into the details of that affair; for himself he did not even know who were the parties to the litigation. He would not, however, press for the details if it was thought advisable not to enter into them. He should like to ascertain from the chairman whether the securities now held here and in the colonies were good, and also whether the management in the colonies was perfectly satisfactory to the direction in London, and whether they (the directors) considered it such as should be continued? He knew that great difficulty existed when the management of a concern was so many miles distant, but still he thought the directors should secure as good a system of management in the colonies as possible. Another matter to which he wished to refer was the reserve fund, which, on looking over the accounts of the past few years, he found to be reduced to a very doubtful existence, in fact it was not satisfactory to the shareholders at all. (Hear, hear.) Other Australian banks had been successful, and although shareholders must rest content if there was a loss now and then, still he could not help feeling that there was always some one to blame when there was such a continuance of losses. It was not that he felt that all the officers should be dismissed because there was a loss, but when they found a continuance of losses he could not rid his mind of the fact that there must be a laxity of management or want of judgment somewhere. As the losses had been so frequently referred to in the report, his opinion was that the sum was a very large one. Another subject, to which he wished to call attention, was the payment of interest on current accounts. Now, he was not so opposed to the payment of interest, which appeared to be the growing fashion, as that in his opinion it was contrary to the true principles of good banking. He, however, thought the main thing was to be assured by the directors that the management in the colonies was under their control, and that it was carried out to their satisfaction. He should like to hear the opinion of the chairman, as the accounts were evidently not satisfactory to all the shareholders.

Mr. J. Wilson deprecated the system of paying interest on deposits of only one day's duration, and said it had been alleged out of doors that one of the directors and one of the auditors had resigned, in consequence of the system being sanctioned by the board. Another thing he deprecated was the fact of this bank having, since the commencement, expended nearly £60,000 in bricks and mortar, as he found by the accounts the "building, &c.," item stood. He thought that impugned the directors in London, as it could not be done without their consent. He wanted to know why they were in that fine house, when they carried on their business previously in premises for which they merely paid a rental. His opinion was, the whole gravamen was the want of wisdom in letting the manager or inspector in the colonies pay interest on deposit accounts of only one day. It was a most suicidal act, and he believed it was through that that the Government out there did not include this among the other banks for taking their debentures. (No, no.) Well, it was rumoured out of doors that such was the case. He thought the directors should give more information as to the £11,000, and again complained of the manager in the colonies being allowed to pay interest on the deposits.

Mr. Burton wished to know how much of the £60,000 for building, &c., referred to this country.

The Chairman said that as much as possible of the buildings had been let, and they now stood at a rental of £300 for the office in Cornhill.

Mr. Darmell reminded the meeting that this bank was not the first to

propose the payment of interest on deposits, and said it was easy to understand how the bank, seeing the system adopted by others, was anxious not to lose its business, but rather to increase it. The directors had, under those circumstances, felt it desirable to fall into the same course as other banks, although he felt that it was a most suicidal policy, for it caused people to take their money to the bank for the interest when they could not employ it themselves. If they had not paid that large amount of interest, probably they might have lost some of their customers, but not many. But, again, when they struck their balance they would have had the £6,000 (which had been paid) to have met the loss. He was far from saying that the directors had acted unwisely, or that the manager in the colony had not been driven into adopting the system; but he should like to hear what the chairman had to say about it. Respecting the outstanding obligations of £11,600 referred to by the chairman, he did not think it would be wise to enter into the details; but he must urge on the directors the necessity for pressing their just claim at all hazards for the full payment. (Hear, hear.) As to the £60,000 for buildings, he felt that they could not well carry on their business without they had suitable premises, as he knew from experience that, especially in Sydney, they must have such a place as that which was erected at the corners of George-street and King-street to give the bank a good standing; and therefore he felt they would not lose by the amount they had so invested. He thought the dividend was small, and that was owing to the fact that they had not a large business. Now, the only way to get a large business was to have an active direction at home and a good manager in the colonies. His opinion was that they should have a share list at both ends—at home and in the colony. Something had been said that this bank had not been favoured by the Government in its business, owing to its policy; but he was of a different opinion, for the business was put up to tender, and the Government had always endeavoured, as far as he had seen, to support and encourage the colonial banks.

Mr. Wilson should like to know why this bank was not included in the list which had been made out by the colonial government for its business?

The chairman said he really believed there had been some favouritism shown towards certain banks, but there was no reason to believe that this bank was excluded for any other motive. With respect to the various questions which had been suggested, he begged to say, in reference to the payment of interest on current accounts, that he was glad Mr. Wilson had mentioned it, because he knew there were some erroneous ideas abroad as to the connection of the directors with that subject. The payment of interest on current accounts, especially daily accounts, was not set on foot by this bank, nor was it the wish of the directors that such a system should be carried out. The Oriental Bank was the first which had started the system in Australia, and then it was followed by other colonial banks. He felt that their manager in the colony would not have adopted the system had he not felt that there was some very great pressure for it. In fact, it was so necessary, that had it not been adopted, another bank was rumoured as being in course of formation to carry out the system. The system was, however, stopped in Sydney, and from what had there taken place he was in hopes that it was only a temporary thing, and that it would soon cease to exist in Melbourne and elsewhere. He thought the young banks ought to have the least blame on the subject, as the old banks were the promoters of it. He could not see, however, that the system had had such bad effect, as the deposits had increased some £80,000 or £90,000, and his opinion was that had not the system been adopted, they would have

decreased as much as they had increased under the system. The first they (the directors) heard of it was that the manager out there had adopted it because it was necessary he should do so, and then they felt it would be most injudicious to peremptorily put a stop to it; but, at the same time, they sent out to him intimating that they would be glad to see a stop put to it. No doubt they had got over the difficulty by so doing much better than suddenly putting an end to the practice, and to which—he might mention—most of the directors objected; in fact, he might say the whole board would have been glad to see it given up. They must be glad to see that it was put a stop to at Sydney, and he hoped soon to say it was stopped altogether.

Mr. Wilson—But how came he to do it without your sanction?

The Chairman said because he felt the bank must have suffered, had he not done so. The old banks had started the system to obtain for them a large amount of business, and then having established themselves they thought it more profitable to leave the system off. The manager in the colonies was a very cautious man, and by his good management had saved the bank from sustaining much larger losses than it had. As to the fraud of £1,000 which had been referred to among the losses, it certainly was a most unfortunate circumstance, and every means had been taken to render the system of management secure against a recurrence of anything of the sort; and he believed the mode which had been adopted would perfectly answer. Although this bank had altered its mode of management, yet he found there were many of the large banks carrying on their business on the same method as their bank was when the fraud was perpetrated, thus showing that their then system was not so insecure. But they all knew as well as he could tell them, that when a man, enjoying the confidence of his employers, was bent upon robbing them, nothing whatever could defeat his cunning. (Hear.) Another question had been mooted—he meant with reference to the large item for building. He assured them that it was quite necessary at the outset to have proper premises, or they could never make a stand to ensure them a large business. At the present time, however, they stood at no more expense than if they were merely paying the rent for the premises they used for the carrying out of their business.

Dr. Beattie wished to know what amount was lost by the sudden realisation of the securities to which the chairman had referred?

The Chairman said that there had been a loss of £1,500 on one transaction. It was not a security which the bank held for money advanced, but it was taken for a debt.

Dr. Beattie hoped that in future the item for directors' remuneration and income tax which now, classed together, stood at £2,618, would be more clearly defined. In fact, he should like to see the various amounts in the item for management; and he begged to ask what the directors now received?—not that he believed they were too well paid.

The Chairman said the amount had never been altered. The directors received £1,000 per half-year between them.

Mr. Edmonds said the dividend at the last meeting was at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, being an increase of 1 per cent. per annum over the preceding half-year. He thought it was inexpedient on that occasion to increase the dividend from 5 to 6 per cent., seeing the losses which had been incurred.

The Chairman explained that the directors did not then expect that the losses would be so heavy, as it was supposed the securities they held were good, in which expectation, however, they had been disappointed.

Mr. Edmonds hoped that the business, and consequently the dividend,

would be increased, either by making more profits or less losses. It was impossible that profits should not accrue in banking business, for bankers had not to look after their business, it came to them instead. They must, in fact, make good profits, if their business was properly managed.

Mr Alderman Salomons then addressed the meeting, and said it would be the last time he should do so from the directors' side of the table. He regretted that any expression should be made against the management of the colonial branches of the bank, for he believed that their managers, both in Sydney and Melbourne, were cautious men. They had carried the bank through times of the greatest depression, and that too without much loss. He thought they ought therefore to have the confidence of the shareholders as they had of the directors. He must say he was directly opposed to the payment of interest on deposits, as the parties who deposited their money in the banks had all the advantages of banking, the most important being that their money was taken care of when it was not in their power to take care of it themselves, owing to the peculiar state of things which existed in the colonies, therefore it must be important that they should not be paid interest. It was indeed a most important question, and his opinion was that there should be some prohibition from head-quarters to the carrying out the practice at all. He should tell the meeting, however, that there was a feeling that the system should not be abandoned unless all the banks were unanimous, and therefore, while other banks in the colonies pursued it, they must also carry it out. As to the increase of the dividend at the last meeting, he did not approve of it, for he felt that if they had continued it at 5 per cent., their stock would now have been higher, and they would also have been able to pay their losses without encroaching on the reserve fund. His remarks were made in a purely friendly spirit as a shareholder, for it was his intention to leave the board; but he could not refrain from saying that he had an opinion there had been a feeling of severity against the board. On the occasion of the increase of the dividend from 5 to 6 per cent. it was done out of the earnings of the bank to pacify the proprietors. In conclusion, the worthy alderman expressed his opinion that the undertaking was in a perfectly sound condition, and said that his belief was that the reason the colonial government did not include the bank in its list was that it was following an exclusive policy, caring mainly for the welfare of the concern and the interests of the proprietors—and not from any feeling that the system pursued was, in any other way, injudicious.

Mr. Borrodaile (director) said the directors disagreed with the system, and had so expressed themselves, but considered it would be injudicious to put a sudden stop to it.

Some slight discussion ensued, in which it was urged that the manager in the colonies had taken too great a liberty in adopting the system without the sanction of the board of directors.

Mr. Westgarth suggested whether it would not be better, considering the present aspect of affairs, to postpone the dividend altogether, especially when they looked at its smallness.

The Chairman said that although there were many like the honourable proprietor and himself, to whom the immediate declaration of a dividend would be of no import, yet it would be cruelty to postpone it—notwithstanding its smallness—to those who depended upon the profits of their investments for support; therefore he felt that they could not do other than carry out the recommendation for the 4 per cent. dividend.

The report was then unanimously adopted, and the meeting was made extraordinary for the election of a director in room of Mr. Parbury (resigned).

On the motion of Mr. Westgarth, seconded by Mr. Darmell, Mr. Robert How was unanimously elected to the vacant seat.

Mr. Henry Reed was chosen auditor in room of Mr. Moore (resigned), and a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

AGRA AND UNITED SERVICE BANK.

A MEETING of the shareholders in this bank was held at the bank-house, 27, Cannon-street, on the 21st August, for the purpose of determining on an application for the registration of the bank as a bank with limited liability under the Joint Stock Banking Companies Bill of this year. The chair was occupied by Major Macgregor, the governor.

The Chairman announced that the directors had gone beyond the letter of the act in the matter of notice, for they had sent the circular not only to those of their constituents who had banking accounts, but even to those who had deposit accounts; the same course would be followed in India. He did not think it necessary to detain them with any observations with regard to the advantages of limited liability, because that was a subject on which he apprehended the shareholders had long since made up their minds. He would, therefore, simply move that the necessary steps be taken for procuring the registration of the bank as a joint-stock bank with limited liability.

Alderman Finnis seconded the motion.

Colonel Bassett would not move an amendment; but he was himself opposed to the idea of taking limited liability, which he was afraid might have a tendency to injure the credit of the institution. At present only half the capital was paid up, and therefore he did not see what advantage limited liability would be to them, because in the worst cases of bank failure a sum equal to double the paid-up capital had always been found sufficient to get them out of the difficulty.

Major Johns wished to know what would be the probable effect upon their deposits?

The Chairman said the position of the bank in respect to deposits was different from that of almost any similar institution, all their deposits being for a long term, and subject to ample notice. If, like many banks, they had large deposits on terms which were practically little better than at call, he should have hesitated in proposing such a step, but as the larger part of their deposits belonged to shareholders, and were at notices varying according to the rate of interest, he did not apprehend that the step they were about to take would produce any material result. Many of the shareholders had embarked their all in the institution, and, therefore, it mattered little to them whether their liability was limited or not. If the bank went, the whole of their property went with it, and therefore, practically, their liability was as much limited as was possible. Nevertheless, they thought it would be to the advantage of the institution to adopt the proposed measure.

The resolution was then adopted *nem. dis.*

The Chairman observed that there was no further business before the meeting, but they would be glad to hear that, although they had not received the accounts from the whole of their branches, they were in possession of information which left them under no difficulty in announcing their usual dividend of 10 per cent. (Hear, hear.)

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY.

An extraordinary meeting of shareholders in this company was held on the 23rd July, at the London Tavern, for the purpose of receiving the report of the directors, and on other business; Mr. F. Wm. Russell, M.P. (chairman of the board of directors), presided.

After the usual preliminaries, the secretary read the following report and statement of accounts:—

By the accompanying statement of accounts, which the directors have the pleasure to lay before the shareholders, it will be seen that the gross profit for the six months ending the 30th ult. amounts to £39,970 14*s.* 1*d.*; and that after deducting the current expenditure and rebate of interest on bills not due, making allowance for doubtful debts, and writing off a portion of the preliminary expenses, according to the principle originally laid down for their extinction, there remains a disposable balance of £19,691 17*s.* 1*d.*

Out of this balance it is proposed to appropriate £9,633 12*s.* 6*d.* to the payment of a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, and to carry the surplus £10,058 4*s.* 7*d.* to the credit of the reserve fund, which, with interest, will then amount to £14,537 10*s.*

The directors feel confident, after having given the subject due consideration, that in adopting the system of increasing the reserve fund, instead of paying a larger dividend, they are studying the best interests of the shareholders, and the permanent benefit of the company.

It is gratifying to the directors to state that the business continues to increase in a steady and satisfactory manner.

BALANCE-SHEET, 30TH JUNE.

Dr.			
To capital called up, viz.—			
£5 per share on 77,069 shares	£385,345	0	0
To amount due by the company on loans, deposits, &c. ...	2,862,935	0	10
Reserve fund and interest to December 31	4,479	5	5
Amount at credit of profit and loss account, as shown on statement B	19,691	17	1
	£3,272,451	3	4
Cr.			
By cash at banker's	£20,353	1	0
Bills discounted, government and other securities, &c.	3,218,365	7	2
Preliminary expenses	3,500	0	0
Premises in Cornhill	30,232	15	2
	£3,272,451	3	4

Profit and Loss Account.

Dr.			
To current expenses, directors' and auditors' remuneration, bad debts, income-tax, &c.	£8,913	19	0
Amount written off preliminary expenses	500	0	0
Rebate of interest on bills not due, carried to new account	10,864	18	0
Dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., and addition to reserve fund	19,691	17	1
	£39,970	14	1

Cr.

By gross profit during the half-year £39,970 14 1

The chairman said he had very few words to offer on that occasion, as he felt that the accounts that had been laid before them would justify him in congratulating them on the successful aspect of the affairs of the company. He thought that on looking at the collapsed state and the diminution of trade that it was satisfactory to see the amount of business the company had done; in fact, the business had increased, notwithstanding the diminution of trade he had referred to. That increase had been 12½ per cent. over the corresponding period of last year, and 20 per cent. over the previous six months. He felt, therefore, that the business of the company was steadily advancing, and that that progress was a satisfactory proof of the confidence and the growing estimation of the public in the management of the company. The accounts showed the net amount of profits to be divided, and the course proposed was agreed to by all parties out of doors whose opinions were worth weight, and he had no doubt it would be approved of by that meeting. He was quite certain that by a strict adherence to the policy which had hitherto been pursued, the company must advance with rapidity to a position of great credit, and that it would then, beyond all question, be one of the first in the world. In conclusion, he moved that the report just read be received and adopted, and circulated amongst the proprietors.

Mr. M. H. Clayton seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously without discussion.

The Chairman then proposed a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum (free of income tax), payable on and after the 2nd of August.

The motion having been seconded, a few observations of a congratulatory character were made, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Lloyd, in pursuance of previous notice, proposed that the remuneration of the auditors be increased from £50 to £100 per annum. He felt justified in taking this step, as the company were now in a better position than when he first proposed the resolution some time back.

Mr. Goodliffe seconded the motion, feeling that the auditors were the most important officers of a company, and as their auditors had so ably performed their duties he hoped they would be unanimous in carrying the resolution.

Mr. W. Borradaile took objection to the increase of remuneration.

The Chairman said it was purely a shareholders' question, as the auditors were the shareholders' officers. He must say, however, that the auditors had attended so assiduously to their duties that they deserved the thanks and gratitude of the shareholders. The directors took no part in the question.

Mr. Nicholls felt that the auditors were well paid for their services; they knew what the salary was when they took office. As so small an amount of money had been divided, he felt that they should not think of increasing any remunerations. (Loud cries of "Withdraw it.")

Mr. Lloyd felt the auditors were not well paid, but if it were the wish of the meeting he would withdraw it. Still, he should bring it forward again at the next meeting.

Mr. Goodliffe, who seconded the motion, consented to its withdrawal, as the increase must be an act of grace, and he hoped they would next meeting be unanimous. (Hear.)

The motion was then withdrawn.

Mr. Borradaile then moved a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

Mr. Bass, M.P., in seconding the resolution, regretted that a larger dividend had not been declared.

The motion was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Captain Barlow, a vote of thanks was passed to the manager, and the meeting separated.

Reviews.

The Life and Correspondence of William Paterson, the Founder of the Bank of England. By S. Bannister, M.A. Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange.

These volumes should be in the hands of every banker, as they form the most remarkable record of the proceedings of a notable personage, who, in his capacity as a merchant and financier, developed very advanced ideas with respect to banking and commercial relations with foreign countries. His plans for the establishment of the Bank of England and the organization of the Darien scheme are sufficient to create a lasting reputation; but the endeavours of William Paterson to benefit his race in other respects entitles his name to be held in high consideration and esteem. His writings may be studied with advantage, and as a memorial of the period in which he lived furnish much interesting matter.

A Handy Guide to Safe Investments: being a short, popular and practical Treatise on Public Securities, and the mode of transacting business at the Stock Exchange. By Gresham Omnium. Groombridge and Sons, Paternoster Row.

In this little book is comprised the whole of the information necessary for dealing in public securities, the nature of the various stocks and shares being fully explained. So cheap a manual has never before been presented to the public, containing as it does the character and position of the various investments which at the present day invite the attention of the moneyed classes. Other and larger works exist on the same subject—for instance, "Fortune's Epitome of the Funds," and "Fenn on the Funds," but these deal more elaborately with the topics discussed, and must be regarded rather as solid histories of the respective debts and securities than "Handy Guides."

Aids to Reporting; or, the Student's Guide to Press Occupation. By a Parliamentary Veteran. Groombridge and Sons. Paternoster Row.

The inner mysteries of the press are in this small *brochure* explained, and an insight afforded to the qualifications necessary to assume a position as a reporter in Parliament, or in any other department on a newspaper. As an initiatory instructor to those who may wish to acquire facility and precision in writing shorthand, the contents of these pages will be found useful.

Communications.

To the Editor of the "Bankers' Magazine."

DECREASE IN COUNTRY CIRCULATION.

Sir,—Having heard many exaggerated statements respecting the loss to the public on country bank circulation of notes, I have endeavoured to form some estimate of that loss; the result I place at your disposal, as it may be interesting to some of your readers. I am, Sir,

19th August, 1858. A Subscriber.

COUNTRY CIRCULATION SINCE 1844.

	Decrease by withdrawals.	Decrease by Failures	Supposed amount at stoppage.	Supposed Dividend.
	£	£	£	s. d.
Knapp & Co., Abingdon	.....	29,316	23,725	2 6
G. Morger & Son, Bath	4,572			
Trapp & Co., Bedford	8,515			
Moilliet & Sons, Birmingham	18,132			
Gundry & Co., Bridport	.....	24,698	22,182	11 0
Gunner & Sons, Bishop's Waltham	1,193			
Ruffords & Co., Bromsgrove	.....	16,799	10,600	
Ruffords & Co., Stourbridge	.....	17,295	11,032	
Baillie & Co., Bristol	89,540			
Fisher & Sons, Cambridge	8,753			
Humphrey & Son, Cambridge	2,615			
Towgood & Co., Cardiff	7.001			
Tice and Welch, Christchurch	2,840			
Latham & Co., Dover	.....	9,577	8,468	11 10
Kewney & King, Grantham	.....	19,401	3,180	15 0
Smith, Hilder & Co., Hastings	.....	38,038	25,485	
Smith & Co., Hemel Hempstead	.....	23,842	14,315	
S. Adams & Co., Hertford	.....	23,635	12,060	
Flood & Lott, Honiton	.....	19,015	15,180	
Gotch & Sons, Kettering	.....	9,192	1,295	5 0
Davies & Co., Knighton	9,090			
Fowler, Grant & Co., Leek	4,009			
Palmer & Greene, Lichfield	.....	22,786	5,955	5 0
Tanner & Co., Marlborough	19,073			
Ward & Co., Marlborough	12,490			
Cobb & Co., Margate	9,996			
Williams & Sons, Newport	.....	8,600	8,488	4 4
Sir J. Lock and Co., Oxford	15,705			
J. & R. Morrell, Oxford	14,277			
Simpson & White, Peterboro'	12,832			
Ricketts, Enthoven & Co., Penzance	31,461			
Nash & Neale, Reigate	.....	13,700	11,371	14 6
W. Footner & Sons, Romsey	3,875			
Gibson & Sturt, St. Albans	2,333			
J. S. Storey, St. Albans	.....	3,743	650	6 0
Brodie & Co., Salisbury	.....	23,335	23,459	10 0
Brodie & King, Shaftesbury	9,813			
Adams & Warren, Shrewsbury	.....	9,700	7,528	1 7
William Moore, Stone	9,154			
Bate & Robins, Stourbridge	17,560			
Thomas Ashby & Co., Staines	9,244			
C. Forster & Son, Walsall	19,937			
Everett & Co., Warminster	24,896			
Frankland & Co., Whitby	2,076			
Samuel Kenrick, Wrexham	.....	3,289	140	16 0
R. M. Lloyd, Wrexham	4,464			
E. & J. Batten, Yeovil	10,038			
Wickham & Co., Winchester	6,737			
Farley & Co., Kidderminster	.....	14,309	6,176	10 0
Farley & Co., Worcester	.....	15,463	4,069	10 0
Reduction by withdrawals of Private...	393,016	345,733	215,359	
Reduction by failures				

	Decrease by withdrawals.	Decrease by Failures.	Supposed amount at stoppage.	Supposed Dividend.
	£	£	£	s. d.
Brought forward	393,016	345,733	215,358	
Cheltenham & Gloucester Banking Co.	12,786			
Leeds and West Riding Banking Co.	18,937			
Leeds Commercial Banking Co.	13,914			
Newcastle, Shields, and Sunderland Bk.	84,130			
Storey's Banking Co., Shaftesbury	9,714			
Sheffield and Retford Banking Co.	18,744			
Stockton and Durham Banking Co.	8,290			
Suffolk Banking Co.	7,449			
Western District Banking Co.	18,125			
	585,105			
	345,733			
Total reduction since 1844, to 1st January, 1858	930,838			
Two-thirds of which is	620,550			
Addition granted to Bank of England	475,000			
Amount for which the Bank of England can demand authority to increase its credit note circulation	145,550			
Total possible loss		.....	215,358	
Deduct for dividends, about		75,000		
Deduct for notes held by debtors		40,358		
			115,358	
Presumed loss to note-holders in fourteen years, on £8,648,853; about 1*s.* 8*d.* per cent. per annum			100,000	
Loss on £8,000,000 gold, supposing each sovereign were fourteen years at a loss of 3*d.* each			£ 100,000	

Notes of the Month.

TRADE OF FRANCE.—Statistical tables of the trade of the French empire for the past year have just been published, and furnish the following figures of the imports and exports as compared with those of 1856:—imports in 1856, £109,640,000; ditto, 1857, £107,560,000; decrease, £2,080,000. Exports in 1856, £106,360,000; ditto, 1857, £105,560,000; decrease, £800,000. These totals represent the general commerce of France, including the transit trade. The following represent the special commerce, *i. e.*, the imports taken for home consumption and the exports of French produce and manufactures:—imports in 1856, £79,600,000; ditto, 1857, £74,920,000; decrease, £4,680,000; exports in 1856, £75,720,000; ditto, 1857, £74,640,000; decrease, £1,080,000. The real value of breadstuffs of all sorts imported into France amounted to £4,920,000 in 1855, to £12,120,000 in 1856, and to £6,120,000 in 1857. The specie movements of the period, owing to the disturbance in the relative value

of the precious metals consequent on the Californian and Australian supplies, were exceedingly remarkable. Gold coin and bullion to the value of £56,600,000 were imported during the three years, and in the same interval silver coin and bullion were sent away to the value of £46,800,000.

SHIPMENTS OF SPECIE.—According to a statement by Mr. James Low, the shipments of specie to the East during the past half-year amounted to £3,593,391, of which only £148,674 was gold. As compared with the corresponding period of last year, a falling off is thus shown of £7,012,649. Of these shipments £3,001,646 was from Great Britain, and £591,745 from Marseilles and other Mediterranean ports. The imports and exports of gold and silver, as laid before the committee of the House of Commons now sitting for the past seven years (1851 to the close of 1857) produce the following results:—

Imports of gold into Europe from producing countries in seven years to end of 1857		£130,000,000
Of silver		29,870,000
Total		£159,870,000
Exports of gold beyond Europe	£22,500,000	
„ of silver to India and China	26,670,000	
		79,170,000
Estimated increase to stock of bullion in Europe...		£80,700,000

PROPERTY-TAX AND POPULATION.—In the year ending the 5th of April, 1857, the annual value of property in the counties of the United Kingdom, including railways and canals, rated under schedule A of the Income Tax Act, was £78,326,541, and the amount payable under the said schedule, £5,221,705. In the cities and boroughs of the United Kingdom the amount of property was £49,624,153, and the amount of tax payable, £3,308,224. Thus, together, the property in the United Kingdom rated under schedule A would be £127,950,694, the population 27,641,033, the number of Parliamentary electors 1,221,316, the number of members of Parliament 654, and the amount of income tax payable under schedule A £8,529,929.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM DISTRICT BANK AND MR. JONATHAN RICHARDSON.—At a general meeting of the Society of Friends, held at their meeting-house in Sunderland on the 14th of July, it was unanimously resolved to "disown" Mr. Jonathan Richardson, in consequence of his connection with the Northumberland and Durham District Bank.

THE DISTRICT BANK, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—The official liquidators of the Northumberland and Durham District Bank issued a notice on the 21st August, that they had obtained the sanction of Vice-Chancellor Kindersley to offer to all creditors of the bank, whose claims do not exceed £100, a compromise at the rate of 15*s.* in the pound, the payment to be made at the bank premises, St. Nicholas-square, Newcastle-on-Tyne, from No. 1 to No. 1,000 on the 14th September; from No. 1,001 to No. 2,000 on the 15th; and from No. 2,001 and upwards on the 16th of that month.

COUNTY COURTS.—In 1857, in the County Courts of England and Wales, there were 744,652 plaints entered, 395,731 causes tried (or in which judgment was entered), and 5,159 causes tried between £20 and £50; 1,937,745 was the total amount of the moneys for which the plaints were entered; judgment was obtained for £978,592; £146,417 was paid into court; £776,711 was paid in to the credit of suitors, and £771,944 paid out; 1,068 causes were tried by a jury, and in 516 cases the persons requiring a jury obtained verdicts; 92,894 executions were issued against the goods of defendants; 112,961 judgment summonses were issued; 56,655 of these were heard by the court; 27,783 warrants of

commitment were issued by the registrar of the court, and 10,607 persons were taken to gaol under the warrants. The business of the county courts has greatly increased since their primary establishment.

Promotions at the Bank of Ireland.—Mr. William Graves, who filled the office of secretary to the bank for upwards of fifty years, has been allowed to retire upon his full salary; and the directors have promoted Mr. Peter Du Bedat to the vacant post. Mr. Edward Blacker has been promoted to the office of chief cashier, vacated by Mr. Du Bedat.

The Revenue and Trade of Ireland.—£6,562,572 was the net produce of the revenue of Ireland paid into the Exchequer in the year 1857—viz., £2,098,353 from the customs, £2,934,000 from the excise, £453,223 from stamps, and £1,076,996 from the property and income-tax. The income of Ireland was £7,852,693, and the expenditure £6,853,707. The following articles were retained for home consumption in Ireland, viz.:—7,070,395 gallons of spirits, 5,305,272 lb. of tobacco, 9,772,906 lb. of tea, 739,603 lb. of coffee, 365,605 cwt. of sugar, and 1,246,896 lb. of cotton wool. The consumption of coal cannot be exhibited. To England were exported 329,400 oxen, bulls and cows, 15,183 calves, 485,217 sheep, 269,125 swine, 183,331 quarters of wheat and wheat flour, 1,724,438 quarters of oats and meal, and 2,570,163 gallons of Irish spirits. The amount of portage collected was £224,004.

Bank Officers.—Mr. Granville Sharp, who obtained the prize of £100 offered by J. W. Gilbart, Esq., for the best essay upon "The Adaptation of Recent Inventions collected at the Great Exhibition of 1851 to the purposes of Practical Banking," and who was afterwards, on Mr. Gilbart's recommendation, appointed chief accountant to the Bank of Bombay, has accepted the office of secretary to the Commercial Bank of India. This has been done with the full concurrence of the directors and chief officer of the Bank of Bombay, who have given to Mr. Sharp a very gratifying testimonial.

Debtors and Creditors.—A bill of Mr. Headlam, Mr. Ridley, and Mr. Hutt authorises and carries out the voluntary assignments of debtors for the benefit of their creditors. Persons whose debts shall not exceed £1,500, and who cannot pay in full, may assign to two of their creditors all their effects, stock, book-debts, &c., to be equally divided among their (proved) creditors. The Registrar of the County Court may be made the assignee, and that officer will then appoint two of the creditors to act as trade assignees. A certificate of assignment from the Registrar will protect the debtor against arrest, and he will receive a certain sum per week for his maintenance. The assignment will be a bar to any proceedings in Chancery or in Bankruptcy.

Gold from Australia.—In the year 1857 48,815 ounces of gold (value £185,138) were exported from New South Wales, and 2,729,655 ounces (value £10,806,260) from Victoria. The gross total quantity of gold exported from both colonies between May, 1851, and December, 1857, is estimated at 17,023,413 ounces, (value £64,122,360).

DIVIDENDS UNDER FAILED ESTATES.

A second dividend of 2*s.* in the pound has been announced under the estate of Messrs. E. Sieveking and Son.

Messrs. Rehder and Boldeman, who suspended during the panic of last autumn, have announced a second dividend of 2*s.* in the pound.

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

August 2.—Parliament prorogued; the Queen's speech being delivered by commission.

3.—Suspension of Messrs. Hyde, Hodge and Co., mahogany importers, with liabilities amounting to £160,000. At a subsequent meeting of the creditors it was arranged that the estate should be wound up under inspection.

5.—Intelligence received of the effectual laying of the Atlantic telegraph cable, and direct communication between Valentia Bay and Newfoundland.

13.—Announcement of the failure of Messrs. C. F. Overweg and Co., merchants, of Hamburg.

14.—Suspension announced of Messrs. Allan, Deffell and Co., merchants, of Calcutta.

14.—Failure of Messrs. Langlois and Co., of Calcutta, in the French trade.

16 —The first message sent by the Atlantic telegraph from the directors in London to the directors at New York, as follows:—"Europe and America are united by telegraph. Glory to God in the Highest; on earth peace; good-will towards men."

17.—Tenders opened at the India House for the £3,579,000, the remainder of the Indian loan, when the whole amount was taken, less £398,500. The *minimum* price fixed by the directors was 97. The biddings ranged from 97 to 99, the average being about 97¼.

20.—Intelligence received of the conclusion of a treaty of peace with China, on the basis of the ports being thrown open; the Christian religion to be allowed to be freely practised; Foreign consuls and diplomatic agents to be admitted to Pekin; and an indemnity to be paid to England and France.

21.—Suspension of Messrs. Portelli, Schembri and Co. in the Mediterranean trade, with liabilities of upwards of £150,000.

21.—Suspension of Mr. Duncan Gibb, of Liverpool, merchant. Debts, &c., £50,000; realizable assets, £80,000.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following mercantile suspensions have occurred during the month, with the exception of Messrs. Hyde, Hodge and Co., and Messrs. Portelli, Schembri and Co., they have not presented features of interest.

August—Messrs. Hyde, Hodge and Co., London, mahogany importers.
Messrs. C. F. Overweg and Co., Hamburg, merchants.
Messrs. Allan, Deffell and Co., Calcutta, merchants.
Messrs. Langlois and Co., Calcutta, merchants.
Messrs. Portelli, Schembri and Co., London, Mediterranean trade.
Mr. Duncan Gibb, Liverpool, merchant.

BANKING OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the demise of Mr. Charles Drummond, one of the active partners of the well-known banking firm. Mr. Drummond died on Monday the 23rd August, at Brighton. The deceased was brother of Major-General Berkeley Drummond, and of the unfortunate Mr. Edward Drummond, many years private secretary of the Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel. He was born on the4th of September, 1790, and married on the 15th of July, 1819, the Hon. Mary Dulcibella Eden, sixth daughter of William first Lord Auckland, by whom he leaves a numerous family.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1858.

QUIETUDE has been the general characteristic of business during the past month. There has at the same time been a steady revival in most of the departments, and although the transactions have not proved numerous, they have nevertheless exhibited a tendency in the right direction. This arises from the greater confidence entertained in the progress of foreign politics, the satisfactory termination of the Cherbourg *fêtes*, the more favourable intelligence from India, and lastly the conclusion of peace with China. While these encouraging causes have been in operation, the arrivals of gold from Australia and America have increased, and the shipments to the East and the Continent having diminished, a considerable balance has found its way to the Bank of England. The result has been an accession to general bullion resources, which has had the effect of slightly stimulating speculation at the Stock Exchange, though not to the least extent to excite alarm. In the produce markets increased activity has prevailed, and a good business for home consumption has been concluded; but, with the exception of one or two articles, no purchases which would indicate an adventurous tendency have attracted attention, and in those the operations have not been very important. It, however, seems to be anticipated that there will now be some expansion, especially if the Chinese treaties entered into between England, France and Russia are, as expected, placed on a very liberal basis, and the consequence will naturally be considerable animation in the manufacturing districts, where, already, preparations are making for the change. Such has been the abundance of money in Lombard Street, that advances on Government stocks can be obtained at 1½ per cent., and the rate of discount for first-class paper after fluctuating between 2¼ and 2½ per cent. is now nearer the latter quotation, owing to what is considered a rather better demand for trading purposes.

The English stock market has been in a more satisfactory position, and business has sensibly improved. The favourable progress of the harvest, the *fetes* at Cherbourg, the easiness of money, and the success attending the laying of the Atlantic Cable are all circumstances which have more or less affected operations, and the consequence has been an advance equal to 1¼ per cent. The negociation of the remainder of the East India loan has been completed, and the scrip commands upon the *minimum* of 97 a premium of about 1. Bank stock has steadily crept up till it is about 227 to 228; India stock remains quiet; and Exchequer bills have only been dealt in to a moderate extent.

Foreign stocks have not greatly varied this month, but the late advance has been fairly mentioned. Spanish and Peruvian keep on the favourable side; Turkish has been rather heavy, while Mexican has fluctuated in a slight degree. It is thought that if animation once sets in among the speculators several of these securities will experience a further improvement. Brazilian scrip is not quite so good as it was, but it may be considered about par. The late adjustment of the account has passed over in a satisfactory manner.

The railway share market, although not active, has presented features of greater firmness than could have been anticipated from the progress of the meetings. The dividends are irregular, and the results of management not such as to indicate strict economy in the general departments. But, as is usual, among the operators the speculative sales previously conducted have anticipated these circumstances, and there has since been some slight

reaction. Greater firmness is apparent in Indian securities, and French within the last few days have been more buoyant.

Joint-stock bank shares have gradually recovered since the close of the meetings, and the quotations now represent something near the value of these securities in the market. Steady purchases have taken place, and the public, after remaining quiescent, have come forward as buyers, exhibiting increased confidence, the last half-yearly reports having been more favourable than expected. The whole of the shares of the Metropolitan institutions are better, and some of the colonial descriptions have advanced.

The produce markets have been more animated, but the transactions have been principally for home consumption. There is a greater export demand, though it has not yet reached proportions to create any great movement in rates.

The following are the fluctuations in the English and Foreign Stocks and Railway Shares during the month just concluded.—

	Price on July 28.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Aug. 26.
English Funds.				
Consols	95¼-95⅜	96⅞	95¼	96⅞-97
Exchequer bills	35*s.* to 38*s.* pm.	39*s.* pm.	30*s.* pm.	31*s.* to 34*s.* pm.
Foreign Stocks.				
Brazilian	103½	103⅝	102½	103⅜
Buenos Ayres	79⅝	80⅜	78	79
Chilian	—	106	105⅜	105⅝
Dutch, 2½ per cent.	—	66¼	65½	65⅝
Mexican	19⅜	21⅛	19⅜	21⅛
Peruvian, 4½ per cent.	89¾	92½	89½	92
Russian	—	114½	113	114
Spanish	43⅜	44⅜	43⅜	44½
Turkish, 6 per cent.	95½	98	95	96⅜
Ditto, 4 per cent.	105⅜	105⅜	103½ x.d.	104
Railway Shares.				
Brighton	109⅞	110	107½ x.d.	109½
Caledonian	77½	83½	76½	82½
Eastern Counties	62½	63⅜	60⅞	62
Great Northern	102⅜	104⅜	99	100½
Great Western	48⅜	51⅜	48⅜	50½
Lancashire and Yorkshire... ...	91½	95½	91½	93⅜
London and North Western ...	92½	94	91½	93
Midland	93⅜	96⅜	92½	96⅜
North Staffordshire	11½	12½	11½	12
South Eastern	68⅞	72½	68½	71½
South Western	94⅜	97	93¾ x.d.	93½
York, Newcastle, and Berwick ...	91½	95	91	93
York and North Midland	72⅜	75	71⅜	73
East Indian...	105	106⅜	103½	105½
Northern of France	36⅜	38	36⅜	37⅜

THE GRAIN TRADE.

The harvest is now nearly completed throughout the country, and the result proves that the wheat crop is a good average one. Barley and oats

are certainly below the average yield, but not sufficiently so to cause any apprehension of dearth. At the various grain markets, during the past month, the supplies have been fully equal to the demand. Business generally has been very slack, and prices have not undergone any material alteration.

The *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been :—

Week ending 1858.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
July 24	91,917	... 46 4	... 44 1	... 1 0	... 62 6
„ 31	102,191	... 45 8	... 44 5	... 1 0	... 62 5
Aug. 7	103,141	... 44 10	... 44 8	... 1 0	... 62 0
„ 14	96,644	... 45 2	... 45 1	... 1 0	... 61 3

The importations since the harvest of 1857 have been :—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total Qrs.
Fifty-two weeks ended 14th July ...	4,108,219	3,837,541	7,945,760
Four weeks ended 11th August ...	379,745	436,243	815,988
	4,487,964	4,273,784	8,761,748

And the *weekly averages* have been :—

Fifty-two weeks ended 14th July ...	79,000	73,000	152,000
Four weeks ended 11th August ...	95,000	109,000	204,000
More	16,000	36,000	52,000

THE STATE OF TRADE.

Business in the manufacturing districts has become more animated, and the operations of the merchants, although not extensive, have improved. It is still difficult to find a general recovery in prices, but the tendency is evidently in that direction. With the result of the harvest, and the more encouraging advices from Australia and America, a return to prosperity will be steadily effected.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

One or two letters on miscellaneous topics stand over, owing to the pressure of meetings connected with monetary establishments. Correspondents will please direct communications to the care of the Editor, No 8, Birchin Lane. All letters, except they involve special questions, must be forwarded by the 20th of the month. Orders for the publication and remittances are still to be sent to Messrs. Groombridge and Sons.

Cashier.—The point has been fully discussed at some of the meetings, and the shareholders appear inclined to adopt the views propounded.

X. Y. Z.—Nothing can be more clear than that the party named is entirely in the wrong. We have yet to discover the cause of this strange conduct.

T. S. (Dudley.)—You should address the manager, from whom you will no doubt receive a courteous reply. He is the best qualified person, and he may probably place you in the way of attaining the desired end.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE;

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

OCTOBER, 1858.

LIVERPOOL BOROUGH BANK LITIGATION.

PROVIDED the verdict of the jury in the cause of *Scott and another* v. *Dixon*, tried at Liverpool at the recent assizes, be upheld by the judges in banco, one step at least will have been taken towards the restoration of a proper standard of commercial morality, and the re-establishment of public confidence in commercial men. The verdict of the special jury in that case proves that an appeal to the common law of the land is sufficient to ensure redress to those who, deceived by the specious representations of men holding high positions in public companies, are led to embark their capital in insolvent undertakings. It had been supposed that a managing director, or the members of a board, might put forth what statement they pleased, for the purpose of propping up the credit of a bankrupt concern, and luring fresh victims to their ruin without being liable to punishment, where punishment is in general more severely felt, viz., in pocket. The verdict in the Liverpool Borough Bank case has dispelled that fallacy. The proceedings against the Royal British Bank directors vindicated the law, as against those to whom the offence of conspiring to defraud could be brought home. But that is at most a doubtful and a difficult remedy. It is rarely that a combination on the part of a body of directors knowingly, to publish false accounts, and put forward unfounded reports of profitable trading, with the view of inducing the unwary to become participators at a high price in absolute and inevitable loss, can be so completely proved as to establish the crime of conspiracy. Henceforward, that difficulty will not deter those who may have been victimised by such reports from appealing to the law. The corporate capacity of the director or manager can no longer be set up as

a shield against the consequences of commercial turpitude; but every director or manager of a bank or joint-stock company of any kind who knowingly makes representations which are untrue, with the view of foisting worthless shares upon the public, while still criminally liable if the offence of conspiracy can be proved, is answerable individually by civil action for whatever loss those who are by such representations induced to become shareholders may thereby sustain, and the facts being proved, it will be for the party proceeded against to show that the statements were made with a *bonâ fide* belief in their truth.

The circumstances connected with the failure of the Liverpool Borough Bank—one of the first that succumbed to the crisis of 1857—will be too well remembered in banking and mercantile circles to need repetition in detail. It was an institution well known and appreciated amongst the cotton speculators of Liverpool as one that conducted its business upon what are called liberal principles; in other words, it was a bank which afforded unwonted facilities to its customers for discounts; and by enabling them in this way to engage in hazardous enterprises, and to work upon the cotton market, it realised high profits while such operations were successful, and as a matter of course incurred more than corresponding losses when they miscarried. A series of heavy losses in the year 1854 had laid the foundation for insolvency, if it had not actually produced it; but the directors nevertheless went on issuing flattering reports every year to their proprietors, and paying large dividends for some time out of the paid-up capital, and, that exhausted, out of the assets which belonged to the creditors of the bank. Against a panic such as that of the autumn of last year, it was impossible for a concern so situated to stand, and accordingly the moment a "run" was made upon it it fell. The bankruptcy was, however, but collateral to the question involved in the trial, in so far as it formed an additional and indisputable proof of the false representations by means of which the board had endeavoured to conceal their insolvency, bolster up the credit of the bank, and keep the shares floating in the market as securities representing actual value.

It was not the liability of the directors to the general creditor that constituted the issue referred to the Liverpool jury, but how far they were individually liable to those of their own partners who had been induced by their published reports to purchase shares, and thus unite in the partnership. The principle of law for which Mr. Edwin James, the counsel for the plaintiffs, contended, was "that if a man undertakes to represent as an existing fact that which he does not know to be an exist-

ing fact, whereby another is induced to alter his condition for the worse, he is as much liable as if he misrepresented a fact which he knew not to be the case"—and the judge by his ruling, and the jury by their verdict, have confirmed that principle as a part of the common law of England. The facts upon which the action was based, and which were proved in evidence on the trial, are shortly these. The Liverpool Borough Bank, of which the defendant, Mr. Dixon, a gentleman well known and of high character in the commercial world of Liverpool, was the managing director, having exhausted its reserve fund, its paid-up capital and no inconsiderable portion of the funds entrusted to its keeping by customers, issued at the annual meeting in July, 1857, a report, in which the directors stated that the net profits of the year's trading to the 30th of the previous month of June were £69,318, after the payment of all managerial expenses, and setting aside £45,825 for loss by bad debts, incurred during the same period, making a gross profit of £115,143 upon a paid-up capital of £1,000,000. The £69,000 which they thus represent to have been the net earnings of the year, they appropriate thus: £32,250 divided already at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending 30th December, 1856, upon £950,000, the then paid-up capital, £33,250 or at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the second half-year embraced in the accounts upon £1,000,000, a call having been made since the previous half-year, and £3,000 for property tax, leaving a balance of £7,439 6*s.* 6*d.* to be carried to the reserve fund, which, according to a former balance-sheet, stood at £101,700, and would thus be raised to £109,000. But with an affectation of ingenuous honesty, which was more calculated to deceive than if the report had been altogether favourable, the directors add that "in winding up the affairs of 1854, a year which is well known was most disastrous to those customers of the bank who were in the colonial shipping trade, a heavier loss has been sustained in the realization of the assets than could possibly have been anticipated. The directors have therefore thought it their duty at once to reduce the dividend to the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, on the ground that taking even a most favourable view of the liquidation of those accounts, the whole of the reserve fund will be required to meet the loss sustained." Not a very favourable state of things truly, nor one that said much for the previous management of the bank—nor was the confession that in the last half-year £45,000 had been lost to one customer, calculated to inspire public confidence in the prudence of the directors. But the capital was represented as remaining intact, the establishment doing a large and exceed-

ingly profitable business, which, but for the losses in 1854, the directors state would enable them to continue the seven per cent. dividend; and more than this, it was known that Mr. Dixon, the defendant, who had just accepted the office of managing director, was a man of great commercial knowledge and ability, and who had been largely connected with banks both in this country and New Orleans, who was therefore likely to avoid those errors which his predecessor had fallen into. It was alleged and proved that upon the representations contained in this report, the plaintiffs, who were working-men, invested their savings in the purchase of ten shares in this joint-stock bank, upon which they afterwards paid a call of ten shillings per share, and it was to recover back the money that they had thus paid that they brought their action against the defendant. Mr. Dixon's identification with this utterly false and unfounded report was established by unquestionable testimony. It was shown that he was personally conversant with the true financial position of the bank when this report was published—that the previous managing director, a Mr. Smith, had, upon retiring from the establishment, laid before the board a full statement of the affairs of the bank which satisfied the defendant and several of his co-directors that no dividend whatever could honestly be declared at the forthcoming July meeting—and that a report was drawn up and printed, in which that disagreeable truth was declared. That report was, however, withdrawn and a more flattering one manufactured for the express purpose of deceiving the shareholders and the public was substituted, in which fictitious profits were reported, and a fictitious dividend declared, which could only be paid out of moneys belonging to the customers of the bank, every farthing of the paid-up capital being lost, the reserve fund already gone, and debts to a considerable amount incurred beyond. Upon these facts the jury, under the direction of Mr. Baron Martin, one of the soundest exponents of commercial law we have upon the bench, did not hesitate to find a verdict for the plaintiffs for the full amount claimed. But even had the defendant been less directly and personally identified with the fraudulent report which formed the basis of the action, his liability would still have been the same. Mr. James laid it down, and the Judge acquiesced in the opinion, that the action would have been equally maintainable had Mr. Dixon taken a less prominent part in the management of the company; and that had he, being a director, and having the power to inform himself of the actual state of affairs, had no hand whatever in the preparation of the report, and had he been personally ignorant of the falsity of the

accounts rendered and the statements made, he would have been still individually responsible. This view of the law is borne out by a judgment recently delivered by the Master of the Rolls, in which he said, "Whether the directors personally know that their statements are delusive and untrue, is, in my opinion, immaterial. They are bound to know it. They are the vouchers to the public of the accuracy of their statements. They are the company itself, by its proper organs announcing to the public the state of the concern." This is most important. The consciousness of individual and pecuniary liability to any individual who, upon the faith of the periodical reports issued by the directors, goes into the market and purchases shares in a joint-stock company, for any loss he may sustain in consequence of the falsity of the statements and figures in such documents, will teach those gentlemen of character and position, who are ambitious of directorial honours and influence, to perform their duties more watchfully and carefully than in the majority of cases they have hitherto been in the habit of doing, to ascertain for themselves whether the institutions to which they give the advantage of their name and credit are in a state of solvency or not. They will no longer allow their authority to pass current as the guarantee to balance-sheets showing large profits out of revenue, and recommending high dividends, when revenue, in point of fact, can pay nothing, and whatever is divided amongst the shareholders must be taken from capital.

It is understood, that an attempt will be made on the part of Mr. Dixon, in the ensuing term, to reverse the verdict or to obtain a new trial. The success of such a step is not very promising, unless the weight of the law expenses should compel the plaintiffs, who are stated to be poor working-men, to abandon their right or accept of some compromise, and thus evade a final decision. The public at large are, however, so deeply interested in the question, that, should an appeal be prosecuted, they would act wisely to exonerate the plaintiffs from pecuniary consequences by entering into a subscription to defray the costs. Meanwhile the case of *Scott* v. *Dixon* is one that directors not only of joint-stock banks, but of railways and joint-stock companies generally—whether upon the limited or unlimited liability principle—would do well to ponder over.

GENERAL PROSPECTS OF THE MONEY MARKET.

It cannot but be supposed that the present increase in the stock of bullion will lead to a further reduction of the Bank rate of discount. The Bank of France having taken the initiative step of lowering their terms to 3 per cent., and also of reducing the interest on French Treasury Bonds, the event cannot be long delayed, particularly when we look to the condition of the Bank of England returns, and the point to which the bullion has already attained.

The *Times* on this subject observes—

"The Bank bullion is now within £3,098,073 of the highest amount ever reached. On the 10th of July, 1852, it stood at £22,232,138, and the return this evening shows a total of £19,134,065. A reduction of the rate of discount is therefore contemplated. Although at this period of the quarter, owing to the large amounts absorbed by the Bank on account of revenue payments, there is usually a temporary pressure, which is relieved only by a portion of these sums being drawn back again to the public in the shape of discounts, no demand exists at that establishment, and the rate in the open market has not advanced above 2½ per cent. With the disbursement of the dividends about a fortnight hence the supply must therefore become excessive, even at these terms, and the Bank must decide upon a reduction, or continue altogether without business. Many persons will regard the step with regret, and be disposed to fancy that if it were avoided the possibility of a revival of wild speculation might be prevented; but nothing could be more erroneous than this view. By attempting to control the market the Bank would but accelerate the dreaded evil. Their unemployed balances constitute the test of abundance or scarcity, and in proportion as these assume an unparalleled magnitude will the stimulus to speculation be imparted. It is better they should be allowed to circulate while trade is yet sound. A low charge for capital is an element which enables our manufacturers to compete with their rivals in the markets of the world. If money is kept here at an artificial point, while in other countries it descends to its natural level, our exporters are exposed to a direct disadvantage, and the process is just as unreasonable as if it were attempted in the case of corn, or cotton, or labour, or any other ingredient in the cost of our productions. If the public are so wild and ignorant that they must inevitably fall into intoxication under such circumstances, and suppose that because temporarily there happens to be a large supply of money there can never again be any want of it, they will not become wiser by being led to believe that it is in the power of Bank directors to regulate these matters."

The *Morning Herald* observes—

"Public securities have exhibited steadiness, and the markets seem to be acquiring increased strength under the influence of the rapid accu-

mulation of bullion. It was fully anticipated that the accounts published in the *Gazette* of the 24th instant (September) would present a favourable appearance, and this has turned out to be the case now the figures have been analysed. The aggregate amount of specie in hand is £19,134,000, and this is the largest amount held since January the 20th, 1853, when it was £19,404,000; the Bank rate of discount then being 3 per cent. At that date the notes in reserve represented £9,444,265, and the circulation £23,473,775. On the present occasion these figures are £12,865,350, and the circulation £20,015,955. When the Bank rate of discount was reduced to 2½ per cent.—viz., on the 6th of January, 1853, the bullion then was £19,765,000, the reserve of notes was £9,809,480, and the circulation £23,360,685. The largest amount of bullion ever retained by the Bank was £22,232,000, the sum in its coffers on the 18th of July, 1852, when the full effect of the Australian and Californian accumulation was experienced. According to these figures, although they are capable of different explanations, it is urged that the Bank directors will not immediately reduce the rate; but regarding them with certain allowances for the state of business as it existed then compared to what it is now, it is very difficult to believe that the measure of relaxation can be long deferred. The natural order of things will be almost sure to bring about the event sooner or later if this anomalous position be maintained by the receipt of additional supplies of the precious metals, and therefore the operators are quite justified in awaiting action by the Bank authorities, if former precedents are to regulate future conduct."

THE NEW TURKISH SIX PER CENT. LOAN.

The new Turkish Loan of £5,000,000 was announced on the 28th of August, and did not in the least take the public by surprise, as it was fully expected. It was announced to be brought out under the auspices of Messrs. Dent, Palmer, and Co., and the Ottoman Bank. The first issue is to be £3,000,000, at 85 per cent., in bonds, with coupons attached, payable half-yearly on the 1st of March and 1st of September. Arrangements are proposed by which the principle is to be redeemed at par by annual repayments of 1 per cent., together with the interest upon the redeemed portion of the loan, the first repayment being fixed for the 1st of March, 1860. In the prospectus issued the total of the loan is to be charged, not only on the general revenues of Turkey, but is also specially secured, principal and interest, by the assignment of revenues from the Customs duties and the Government octroi levied at Constantinople, and these amounted last year to £600,000. A commission is to be named by the Imperial Government to take measures to secure a sum equal to three months' interest on the loan being in the hands of commissioners, and remittances are to be made to the Bank of England, through the agency of the Ottoman Bank, to provide cash for the payment of interest or principal at least one month before becoming due. The gentlemen named in the first instance by the con-

tractors are Mr. C. Hanson. of the firm of Messrs. C. S. Hanson and Co., Constantinople, and Mr. F. de P. Falconnet, manager of the Ottoman Bank. The proceeds of the loan being destined to effect a reform in the financial condition of Turkey, the Government inconvertible paper currency is to be withdrawn as soon as a scheme can be prepared for the purpose. The first £3,000,000 is to be contracted at 85, the terms of application being 5 per cent. deposit, with four payments of 15 per cent. and one of 20 per cent. extending from the 8th of September to the 10th of January, 1859. Discount at the rate of 4 per cent. is to be allowed on payments in full. Holders of the first issue are to have the option of taking at the same price and on the same terms a further amount equal to two-thirds of their scrip, such option to be declared, and a deposit of 20 per cent. paid on or before the 8th of October next; but if the whole of the remaining £2,000,000 shall not be subscribed, the Turkish Government binds itself not to issue any portion at a price below 90 per cent. for the space of twelve months from this date. The terms are somewhat higher than the Six per Cent. Loan raised in 1854, before the war with Russia, 80 per cent. being then the price, with a reservation of 85 for the remainder, if issued five months beyond the date of the original contract. The security in this instance was the general revenue of the country and the Egyptian tribute; and since then the Four per Cent. Guaranteed Loan of £5,000,000 has been completed. Looking, however, to the progress of the Ottoman Government, and the expectation that through European influence its resources will be steadily developed, an impression seems to be entertained that the operation may be successfully completed.

This loan, it was remarked, may constitute the turning point in the fate of Turkey. Until the finances of the country are put upon a sound footing, every effort for its advancement must be liable to be frustrated, while its political independence is likewise jeopardised, since a government harassed by pecuniary difficulties becomes not only reckless, but loses all sense of independence and self-respect. The proposed £5,000,000 will, it is understood, amply suffice to redeem the whole of the depreciated currency now floating; and if in future all the obligations of the government are met in specie, or its equivalent, the credit of the State will be such as to enable it to command from the capitalists of Constantinople every aid that may henceforth be needed, since, looking at its commerce and resources and the insignificance of its debt, scarcely any country possesses in a greater degree the elements of financial prosperity. According to the statements now made, there can be no doubt that the funds to be raised will be devoted solely to the object named. The duties of the commission are to be defined for that purpose by an Imperial firman, and any deviation would at once become known. From the manner of its appointment, moreover, with the Finance Minister at its head, an occurrence of the kind would constitute a deliberate breach of political faith beyond what any European government—always excepting that of Spain—could now commit.

On the whole, therefore, the proposed terms seem such as may be regarded with favour. To the commerce of England, France, and other countries the results of its success would be incalculable. In no quarter is trade or enterprise more inviting, yet no prudent merchant will now venture anything in that region beyond the most limited and ordinary transactions, from the total impossibility of making any calculations under the pernicious state of its exchanges. It is, probably, no exaggeration to conjecture that during each year of the continuance of the existing confusion Turkey loses far more than the entire five millions she proposes to raise for her extrication. Should her government in any way abuse the advantages that are now likely to be accorded, nothing more can be required to seal the fact that the Empire has passed the possibility of regeneration. Even in that case, however, it may be assumed that her present and former loans should be entirely safe, since, having all been raised for the most national and legitimate purposes, no future government or governments that might be founded in the country, under the auspices of any or all of the European Powers, would be likely to be permitted to inaugurate their new arrangements by confiscation.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

ACCORDING to the annual report just issued by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, the number of these associations now in existence in England and Wales is about 20,000, with funds exceeding £9,000,000. The number of members is more than 2,000,000; and if each member could be taken to represent an average family of five, we should thus have 10,000,000 of persons directly or indirectly connected with such undertakings. For relief in sickness alone they distribute annually £1,000,000. The general statistics with regard to them are vague, because the registrar can merely get returns from those who are willing to make them; and although there is a disposition generally to comply with his requirements, both from a desire to do what is right, and also probably to avert the distrust that would result in cases where publicity is avoided, the secretaries in many cases are uneducated men, and find even the filling up of the simplest form a matter of some difficulty. The information thus far obtained is not very encouraging as to the general system of management; but upon the whole, perhaps, the results of the investments of the poor thus shown are not worse than those which noblemen, members of Parliament, merchants, professed financiers, and speculators have contrived to attain in their management of railways, joint-stock banks, and enterprises of all kinds. As honesty is the great essential, this is not surprising, since there is reason to hope that the ordinary population of the country have greater moral stamina than the class whose tone was not only developed during the commercial crisis, but is still made painfully apparent at almost every meeting of great companies. One danger

that besets friendly societies is the tendency to drinking and feasting. In the returns of expenditure charges of this kind have constituted a constant item. But there has been a satisfactory disposition to yield to remonstrance on the subject. The registrar last year sent out about 500 circulars, pointing out that such an application of the funds was not in harmony with the legitimate purposes of a friendly society, and from the replies it appears that in most instances a meeting of the members was called, and that, after the point had been discussed, the necessary reforms were made. "The tenor of the letter shows," it is added, "that the majority of the members were thankful for having had their attention called to the subject." Another source of difficulty arises from the frequency of injudicious investments from over-confidence being reposed in persons in the business world. Thus it has been found that a large amount of money has been placed in the hands of the societies' treasurers, of private banks, of brewers and manufacturers, on notes of hand, in building and loan societies, &c. In the accounts of an estate recently thrown into the Bankruptcy Court, where the partners carried on business as bankers, tanners, shoe manufacturers, and brewers, it was stated that the unsecured creditors included no less than thirty-six friendly societies for a total of £5,196. At a meeting of a large firm of brewers held a short time back, it also turned out that forty-four societies had their funds invested with the firm, and the same has happened with several late bankruptcies. According to the Act regulating Friendly Societies, the trustees are restricted to investments in the public funds or savings banks, or in advances to members on life policies, accompanied by satisfactory personal securities; 700 letters recently sent out to give warning to that effect are believed to have wrought a considerable amount of good "by causing the withdrawal of the funds from many very insecure and illegal investments." One of the inquiries issued by the registrar related to the length of time the respective societies have been established, but only 3,073 answers were obtained. From these it appears there are 230 societies that have existed between 50 and 100 years, and twenty whose date extends over a century. The average seems to be about twenty years. About thirty-two years is stated by the registrar to be a sufficient time for a society to arrive at its *maximum* liability, and it appears that 10 per cent. of the existing societies are in the condition of having safely passed this point. Among the societies which have the largest number of members are several bodies called "Orders." Thus, the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows boasts of 276,254; the Ancient Order of Foresters, 135,000; and the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, 37,000. One of the most successful examples is the Royal Standard Benefit Society. It has existed thirty years, has distributed £97,363 in sickness, superannuation, and other allowances, and has a capital of £40,623 in Government securities. Its creditable career is attributed mainly to the honest and careful superintendence throughout the whole period of Mr. Hunter, its secretary and manager. A class of societies variously termed sharing, dividend, Birmingham, or Tontine

Societies, which divide annually nearly all their receipts, are shown to be constructed on fallacious principles, and to have no elements of permanence. Out of fifty established in London during the last twenty years only twelve are now in existence. Of the aggregate £9,000,000 belonging to Friendly Societies, £1,431,543 is in English and Welsh savings banks, and £1,944,991 in the hands of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, making the total thus invested £3,376,534. With regard to the winding-up of these societies, the registrar is frequently consulted as to the proper mode, and he details a painful case—that of the Mutual Insurance Benefit Institution, with about 1,000 members, established forty years ago, in which, although the original tables were certified by well known actuaries, it was ultimately found that an expenditure of £7,926 for sickness allowances, &c., had been taken out of premiums received for annuities, for sums payable at death, and for endowment of children, the greater part of which will be lost to the contributors.

REDUCTION OF THE RATE OF DISCOUNT BY THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE state of the money market in Paris is indicated by the reduction of the rate of interest on French Treasury Bonds, and also by the reduction of the rate of discount by the Bank of France. The first measure of amelioration, which occurred on the 22nd of September, was succeeded by the second, which took place on the 23rd. On the latter announcement the *Morning Herald* remarked:—

Information was received this afternoon that the Bank of France have reduced the rate of discount from 3½ per cent., at which it has stood since the 10th of June last, to 3 per cent. The alteration has, of course, been entirely brought about by the continued abundance of money, the stock of bullion meanwhile having increased from £20,400,000 to £23,750,000. In February, when the rate was 4 per cent., the aggregate amount was £11,315,000. The effect upon the Paris Bourse and the stock markets in this country has not been important, because the event has been anticipated, and the alteration in the interest on Treasury Bonds yesterday afforded an additional reason for considering the fact as definitively established. While this concession will assist the trading community in France, who are already reaping some benefit from the previous reduction, it is encouraging to notice that there is scarcely any disposition to extend speculation except through legitimate channels, the public themselves manifesting sufficient caution to prevent an undue stimulus to excitement. The large accumulation of resources in the banks of Europe and America must eventually be brought into circulation, and the sluggishness exhibited is a peculiar anomaly arising from the antecedent universal depression and the large sacrifices sustained, first through the ill-management of the railway system, and secondly through the subsequently introduced smaller miscellaneous investments.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to Thursday, September 9 :—

DEBTOR.	F.	C.
Capital of the Bank	91,250,000	0
Ditto, New	91,250,000	0
Profits in addition to capital (Art. 8, Law of June 9, 1857)	1,513,467	77
Reserve of the Bank	12,980,750	14
New reserve	9,125,000	0
Ditto in landed property...	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	645,329,125	0
Bank notes to order	6,041,667	94
Receipts payable at sight	6,376,565	0
Treasury account-current, creditor	133,723,831	76
Sundry accounts-current...	156,658,262	21
Do. with the branch banks	31,441,166	0
Dividends payable	1,007,143	25
Discounts and sundry interests	1,607,255	55
Commission on deposits ...	8,991,701	21
Re-discounted during the last-six months	1,066,532	18
Surplus of paid up bills ...	19,397	80
Sundries	2,542,721	58
F.	1,199,924,587	39

CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand	287,284,694	51
Cash in the branch banks	806,469,295	0
Commercial bills overdue	309,178	88
Do. discounted, but not due	170,592,694	89
Ditto in the branch banks	199,020,922	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	1,037,300	0
Do. by the branch banks	1,654,800	0
Do. on French public securities	84,819,700	0
Do. by the branch banks	8,984,950	0
Do. on railway securities	40,890,300	0
Do. by the branch banks	20,204,204	0
Do. on Crédit Foncier scrip	470,000	0
Do. on branch banks scrip	138,100	0
Do. to the State on agreement of June 30, 1848...	45,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	12,980,750	14
Ditto disposable	52,188,103	58
New shares, not settled ..	337,975	0
Hotel & furniture of the Bk.	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	6,377,922	0
Expenses of the Bank.....	840,415	23
Sundries.....	6,328,283	16
F.	1,199,924,587	39

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, DE GERMINY.

The above return shows an increase of bullion to the same extraordinary extent as on the last occasion—the sum being £1,300,000, raising the total now held to £23,750,000, the highest point yet attained. At the same time the stagnation of business is indicated by a falling-off of £993,000 in the discounts. There has been a further increase of £347,000 in the note circulation, of £295,000 in the Government balances, of £126,000 in the deposits, and of £120,000 in the advances on Rentes and £40,000 in those on shares.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade returns for the month of July were issued on the 26th August, and again show a large falling off in the declared value of our exportations, the difference as compared with July last year being £1,207,535. Woollen, silk and linen goods are those which have been principally effected. Cotton goods present only a moderate reduction, the demand for the Eastern markets continuing to counteract the consequences of the dulness of consumption elsewhere. Metals, hardwares, leather and haberdashery have been shipped on a reduced scale, owing to the character of the Australian and other colonial advices. The subjoined table exhibits the exact increase or decrease under each head :—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Months ending July 31, 1857, and July 31, 1858.	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.
Apparel and slops	£225,773	£166,362	—	£59,411
Beer and ale	125,329	134,041	£8,712	—
Books	42,934	33,639	—	9,295
Butter	49,831	58,566	8,735	—
Candles	17,559	14,253	—	3,306
Cheese	7,664	7,031	—	633
Coals and culm	322,798	321,331	—	1,457
Cordage...	20,092	13,707	—	6,385
Cottons	2,928,821	2,859,276	—	69,545
Cotton yarn	878,947	817,491	—	61,456
Earthenware	139,324	116,156	—	23,168
Fish	15,988	9,071	—	6,917
Furniture	24,761	17,230	—	7,531
Glass	61,141	47,937	—	13,204
Haberdashery	442,986	380,839	—	62,147
Hardwares	400,831	297,317	—	103,514
Leather	226,512	178,677	—	47,835
Linens	439,242	344,982	—	94,260
Linen yarn	131,245	159,616	28,371	—
Machinery	398,141	315,061	—	83,080
Iron and steel	1,237,692	1,153,675	—	84,017
Copper and brass...	336,964	273,688	—	93,276
Lead	71,077	43,400	—	27,677
Tin	168,019	179,220	11,201	—
Oil seed	42,930	71,547	28,617	—
Painters' colours...	35,884	32,703	—	3,181
Pickles and sauces	31,062	22,301	—	8,761
Plate and jewellery	40,589	41,637	1,048	—
Salt	25,709	42,158	16,449	—
Silks	355,316	220,622	—	134,694
Soap	17,413	22,620	5,207	—
Soda	70,983	83,640	12,657	—
Spirits	59,480	18,826	—	40,654
Stationery	66,699	67,738	1,039	—
Sugar, refined	21,878	26,770	4,892	—
Wool	260,923	198,748	—	62,175
Woollens	1,306,065	1,148,992	—	157,073
Woollen Yarn	362,656	349,888	—	12,768
Unenumerated articles	760,274	703,241	—	57,033
Total	12,201,532	10,993,997		

The total of our exports for the first seven months of the year has been £64,461,801, showing a decrease of £8,566,112 or nearly 12 per cent. The decline each month has been in the following proportions :—

	Decrease.
January	**£1,836,505**
February	**2,024,624**
March	**1,456,074**

	Decrease.
April	534,411
May	1,117,556
June	389,407
July	1,207,535

As compared with the corresponding seven months of 1856 there has been an increase of £525,159.

With regard to imported commodities, the largeness of the arrivals of wheat and flour continues to form the most prominent feature. The quantity of other articles of food and luxury taken into consumption has likewise been considerable. Cocoa, coffee, sugar, tea, rice, spirits, tobacco and fruit have all been used in increased quantities.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption :—

Months ending July 31, 1857, and July 31, 1858.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Grain, wheat, qrs.	299,848	478,074	299,848	478,074
Grain of other descriptions, qrs.	309,675	354,411	309,675	354,411
Indian corn, qrs....	56,439	157,533	56,439	157,533
Flour and meal, cwt.	107,115	463,925	107,115	463,925
Provisions—Bacon, &c. &c., cwt.	50,468	51,501	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt.	87,591	76,416	85,279	75,836
Animals, No.	31,610	47,457	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	12,744,000	13,896,200	12,715,200	13,921,600
Cocoa, lb.	554,025	2,139,229	186,460	230,649
Coffee, lb.	5,575,032	7,945,679	2,793,821	2,921,802
Sugar, cwt.	959,942	960,026	490,809	805,600
Tea, lb....	4,358,101	4,525,403	6,148,872	6,587,068
Rice, cwt.	173,887	365,552	126,229	157,660
Spirits, gallons	983,071	941,602	307,987	314,945
Wines, gallons	935,624	743,639	623,398	566,090
Tobacco, lb.	3,363,072	2,072,548	2,772,660	2,946,747
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt...	3,011	18,258	17,746	25,350
Lemons and oranges, bushels ...	12,187	22,639	9,863	9,904
Spices, lb.	593,256	766,318	295,776	285,385
Ditto, cwt.	8,292	8,035	1,482	1,478

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material, showing a remarkable diminution in silk :—

Months ending July 31, 1857, and July 31, 1858.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Flax, cwt.	270,295	159,661	—	—
Hemp, cwt	114,216	203,323	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	893,326	270,268	141,704	180,165
Cotton, cwt....	752,232	748,257	172,074	152,236
Wool, lb.	17,206,013	22,570,296	2,397,055	3,187,115
Tallow, cwt.	69,567	93,453	4,064	3,588

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Months ending July 31, 1857, and July 31, 1858.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	64,323	63,111	62,245	60,795
Ditto of India, pieces	18,751	31,676	7,033	5,793

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. JOHN CARMICHAEL & CO.

THE following is the statement presented at the meeting of creditors of Messrs. John Carmichael and Co., on the 14th of September, at Liverpool; and although it shows on the face of it 13*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, it is not anticipated that the estate will realise more than 5*s.*, as was originally intimated. The discussion was of a protracted nature, and the creditors unanimously were of opinion that a liquidation under inspectorship was the only course that could be adopted.

General Statement of the Affairs of Mr. John Carmichael, of Liverpool, Merchant, September 14, 1858.

LIABILITIES.

Acceptances unsecured	£154,616 8 6		
Expected to be retired by drawers ...	21,888 11 2		
		£132,727	17 4
Acceptances partially secured	£23,020 19 6		
Deduct securities held	6,704 8 1		
		16,316	11 5
Creditors on open account unsecured		56,932	9 4
Ditto ditto partially secured	£83,297 1 4		
Deduct securities held	58,467 18 9		
		24,829	2 7
Bills receivable estimated bad	£108,500 0 0		
Deduct securities applicable	14,625 0 0		
		93,875	0 0
Total		£324,681	9 8

Liability to Glyn and Co. on promissory notes of A. Montgomery and Co., considered covered by remittances to come from Melbourne £15,000

ASSETS.

Good debts	£64,106 8 3		
Doubtful debts ... £11,620 5 10			
Bad debts 47,690 7 1			
£59,310 12 11			
Estimated to produce	6,000 2 1		
Cash balance	1,026 11 1		
Carried forward ...	£71,133 1 5		

Brought forward ...				£71,133	1	5	
Bills receivable				144	0	0	
Produce and goods on hand				1,730	0	0	
8-64th shares of barque Guatemala Packet ...	£316	13	4				
8-64th shares ditto ditto Salvador Packet	350	0	0				
				666	13	4	
Adventures to West Coast				1,258	0	0	
Shares in Canadian Steam Company, estimated				2,500	0	0	
Surplus securities in hands of creditors ...				50	0	0	
Household furniture, estimated				1,000	0	0	
Office furniture ditto				50	0	0	
Property at Greytown ditto				1,000	0	0	
				£79,531	14	9	
HONDURAS ACCOUNTS.							
Claim of former concern of John Carmichael and Co. upon Honduras government	£29,784	0	10				
Advances on account of Carmichael, Vidal and Co.	46,831	9	4				
607 shares in the Anglo-French Company ...	60,913	11	7				
				137,529	1	9	
						217,060	16 6
Deficiency						£107,620	4 2

Of these shares 367 are applicable to claims of creditors as securities held by them, and when the value can be ascertained they will be so treated, and the statement altered accordingly.

Deficiency forward						£107,620	4 2
Accounted for as follows:—							
Bad and doubtful debts ...	£59,310	12	11				
Less—Estimated to produce	6,000	2	1				
				53,310	10	10	
Depreciation in shipping				3,402	5	11	
Sundry losses—							
On produce	7,417	9	7				
Property, Grey Town ...	1,000	0	0				
Land at Oxton	645	8	10				
Shares in Canadian Steam Company	385	0	0				
Adventures	133	14	10				
				9,581	13	3	
At debit of profit and loss				21,994	14	4	
Bills receivable ...	£108,500	0	0				
Less—At credit of acceptors	89,169	0	2				
				19,330	19	10	
						£107,620	4 2

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. A. MONTGOMERY & CO.

At a meeting on the 15th September, of the creditors of Messrs. A. Montgomery and Co., engaged in trade as Australian and Honduras merchants, who failed on the 1st ult., the annexed accounts were presented by Mr. John Young, of the firm of Messrs. Coleman, Turquand, Youngs, and Co. The chair on the occasion was occupied by Mr. Caldecott, and among the parties interested were Mr. Morley, of Messrs. Morley and Co.'s, and Mr. Howell, of Messrs. Ellis and Everington's; the legal representatives were Mr. Oliverson, of the firm of Messrs. Oliverson, Peachy, and Co.; Mr. Murray, of Messrs. Murray, Son, and Hutchins; and Mr. Parker.

Pro forma.—Messrs. A. Montgomery and Co., No. 2, Great Winchester-street. Statement of Affairs, September 1, 1858.

Dr.				
To creditors on open accounts			£15,432	8 2
Creditors on bills payable ...	£36,072 4 6			
Less amount which will be provided for by parties for whose account the bills were accepted	3,322 19 11			
Leaving to rank on this estate ...			32,749	4 7
To creditors who claim a lien on remittances on account of joint shipment [MF]			14,824	0 4
Liabilities on bills receivable	£35,410 10 8			
Of which there are expected to rank on the estate	£14,000 0 0			
To liability on joint guarantee	4,000 0 0			
			18,000	0 0
Liability under marriage settlement	8,000 0 0			
Liabilities			£81,005	13 1
Cr.				
By bills receivable on hand—good			£369	16 6
Debtors—good	£2,857 9 3			
,, doubtful	£26,814 8 6			
,, bad	7,047 13 6			
	£33,892 2 0			
Estimated to realise ...	8,217 5 6			
		8,217 5 6		
			11,074	14 9
Carried to losses ...	£25,674 16 6			
By counting-house furniture and lease of premises estimated at			300	0 0
Dun Copper Mining Company shares, estimated value...			250	0 0
Household furniture and lease of house, estimated value			500	0 0
By adventures consigned to R. Bowden and Co., of Melbourne—				
Invoice price of goods on hand, 14th of July, 1858	£17,866 17 10			
Carried forward ...		£17,866 17 10	£12,124	14 9

Brought forward ...	£17,866 17 10	£12,494 11 3	
Estimated to realise	16,859 5 7	16,859 5 7	
Carried to losses	£1,007 12 3		
By joint adventure [MF] consigned to R. Bowden and Co., Melbourne—			
Invoice price of portion on hand, 14th of July, 1858 ...		11,043 8 4	
		£40,397 5 2	
Creditors under £10		25 3 7	
Assets		£40,372 1 7	

Statement showing position of the Firm on 1st of January, 1858, and accounting for the present deficiency.

Dr.

To capital, Jan. 1, 1858, as per statement, Fo. 1		£6,595 12 11	
To profits	£1,679 10 6		
Less charges and interest...	1,602 0 2		
		77 10 4	
To difference in books...		27 16 9	
Deficiency, as per statement of affairs		40,633 11 6	
		£47,334 11 6	

Cr.

By drawings, as per ledger, Fo.				£727 11 7
By estimated losses—on shares :—				
Dun Mountain Copper Mining Company ...	£557 0 4			
Berlin Waterworks ...	1,111 12 9			
		£1,668 13 1		
On adventures :—				
Shipment H to Costa Rica	£90 1 1			
Costa Rica adventure ...	24 17 6			
No. 3 ditto	99 9 4			
No. 1 and 2, ditto ...	52 2 6			
Sundries, ditto	686 1 10			
Paper, ditto	13 11 4			
N—L, ditto, A. M. & Co.	156 7 3			
		1,122 10 10		
On counting-house furniture		140 19 6		
On bad and doubtful debts... ...		25,674 16 6		
				28,606 19 11
Liabilities as per statement of affairs				18,000 0 0
				£47,334 11 6

It was explained that the assets nominally showed something under 10*s.* in the pound, but it was not supposed such an amount would be obtained by the creditors. The debtor, it was stated, had been engaged in business with a firm in Australia, Messrs. R. Bowden and Co., to whom he has made considerable consignments, and he has also been the London agent of Messrs. J. Carmichael and Co. In this latter capacity he is under lia-

bilities to the extent of £18,000, the principal on accommodation bills. With respect to his operations in Australia, they are understood to represent a partnership; but the amount of assets which it is thought will be received from that side is limited. There are also some Honduras claims, including a small island, the property of Mr. Montgomery, in the Bay of Honduras, but from these the returns are not expected to be large. A question was raised respecting advice lately sent out to Australia to make special appropriations from remittances derived from recent consignments, but it was understood that this and other points could be hereafter investigated, and eventually a resolution was passed agreeing to a liquidation, through the process of inspection, five of the principal creditors undertaking the management. In the course of the discussion it was elicited that the capital, according to the books, on the 1st of January, 1858, was £6,595; but that if proper allowance had been made for bad debts, &c., there would have been a slight deficiency. That sum has been subsequently increased through the liabilities incurred on account of Messrs. Carmichael and Co., Australian adventures, losses on shares and bad debts, to the amount representing the difference as exhibited by the present balance-sheet.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. PARDOE, HOOMANS AND PARDOE.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Pardoe, Hoomans and Pardoe, lately extensively engaged in trade as carpet and tapestry manufacturers, was held on the 17th September at Kidderminster, Mr. J. Pitman, the chairman of the Stourbridge and Kidderminster Banking Company, presiding, when the annexed account, prepared by Messrs. Kettle and Daniell, accountants, of Birmingham, was submitted. It will be noticed that it shows a discouraging state of affairs, and it is believed the prospects of liquidation are very unfavourable. After explanations and discussion, it was agreed that the estate should be immediately wound up under the inspection of Mr. W. Grosvernor, Mr. G. B. Lea, of Kidderminster, and Mr. R. Waller, of Manchester, through the operation of the private arrangement clauses:—

Dr. *Statement of Affairs, September*, 1858.

To amount due to creditors—			
On bonds, notes, &c., unsecured	£22,380	6	4
Ditto to trade creditors, on open accounts	6,521	17	3
Ditto on bills overdue and running	29,216	0	9
Amount due to London Life Association, for which they hold a mortgage upon properties and life properties, as per contra	18,450	0	0
Amount due to a creditor, for which she holds a second mortgage upon properties and life policies, as per contra	1,312	2	2
Amount due to bankers, unsecured	2,849	17	5
Amount due to bankers, for which they hold a third mortgage upon properties and life policies, and a further security on the Caldwell Mill and Vicar-street properties, as per contra	20,906	13	7
Amount due for rent, taxes and salaries, to be paid in full £700			
No liability is likely to come on this estate in respect of bills of third parties endorsed and discounted; after careful consideration it is believed the whole will be duly met at maturity.			
	£101,636	17	6

Cr.

By stock of goods, materials, and stores, as per inventory				£14,439	10 1
Cash in hand				25	0 0
Amount due from debtors, suppose will realise... ...				2,690	18 4
Thirty shares in public rooms, Kidderminster, say ...				200	0 0
Manufacturing plant and machinery, looms, patterns, &c., deducting steam engines, boilers, and machinery, in the nature of fixtures, which are included in the mortgage securities, at the value appearing in Messrs. Pardoe and Co.'s accounts				18,740	0 0
By private effects of partners				1,500	0 0
				£37,595	8 5
Deduct rent, &c., to be paid in full				700	0 0
				£36,895	8 5
By freehold properties and life policies, subject to three mortgages, as per contra, at the valuation appearing in Messrs. Pardoe and Co.'s accounts :—					
Old mill premises, and sling premises, the property of T. Pardoe, G. Hooman, and J. Hooman	£28,000	0	0		
Engine, boilers, and fixtures	2,260	0	0		
Old factory, Oxford-road, the property of T. Pardoe, G. Hooman, and J. Hooman..	2,000	0	0		
Warehouse, offices, and dwelling-house, Worcester-street and Oxford-road, the property of T. Pardoe	4,000	0	0		
Scotch factory and dwelling-houses in Worcester-street, the property of G. Hooman and J. Hooman	1,500	0	0		
Lion-fields factory and land, the property of G. Hooman	1,200	0	0		
Life policies—Mr. Thomas Pardoe, £2,000; Mr. George Hooman, £3,000; Mr. James Hooman, £3,000; and Mr. James Pardoe, £3,000; estimated value	6,000	0	0		
				44,960	0 0
By property held by bankers as further security—					
Freehold land and house at Caldwell, the property of T. Pardoe, G. Hooman, and J. Hooman	300	0	0		
Caldwell mill and land, leasehold, the property of T. Pardoe and G. Hooman ...	1,291	0	0		
Premises in Vicar-street, leasehold, the property of G. Hooman and J. Hooman..	600	0	0		
				2,191	0 0
				£84,046	8 5

Banking and Commercial Law.

ON ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN DEBTORS AND CREDITORS,

When debtors and their creditors can agree to wind-up an insolvent or embarrassed estate without the intervention of bankruptcy, it is less painful to the debtors than that ordeal, and often equally or more beneficial to the creditors. In the case of large failures, where there is a vast estate to realise and distribute, a private arrangement, if fairly conducted, and if due control be exercised over the legal and other functionaries, may be better for the creditors than a bankruptcy. But we think some better plan of audit should be adopted than exists at present, and that no charges should be paid without taxation.

The law relating to such private arrangements as can be carried out without the consent of all the creditors is but little understood. We have alluded to it in former papers, and the recent important case of *Calvert and Co.* contains much novel and interesting matter on the subject. We avail ourselves of the *Law Times*, vol. xxxiv. p. 2, to present our readers with an abridgement of our cotemporary's able report of that case.

This was an appeal from a decision of Mr. Commissioner Evans, who had refused the certificate of the court that a deed of inspection and arrangement purporting to have been executed between the six persons composing the firm of Felix Calvert and Co., the extensive brewers, of the first part, certain inspectors therein named of the second part, and "the several persons, corporations and companies who were respectively creditors of the said Felix Calvert and Co., or some or one of the said partners therein, of the third part," had been duly signed by or on behalf of six-sevenths in number and value of the creditors whose debts amounted to £10 and upwards. The case before the learned commissioner was reported in the 31 *Law Times* Report, 253, and in that report the various clauses and the effect of the deed of arrangement are very fully set forth; they are therefore not repeated here; in the judgment of the Lord Justice Knight Bruce the whole of the recitals of the deed are given, as his Lordship read them from the deed itself.

It appeared that the deed was signed by 428 creditors, and it was stated that they represented an amount of £700,000, and that the whole debts of the firm amounted to £888,195; but it did not appear upon the deed itself what was the amount of the debts of the executing creditors, or which of them were joint creditors of the existing firm, or of the previous firms, or separate creditors of the individuals constituting the firm. However, the inspectors certified in writing that the deed had been signed by six-sevenths in number and value of the creditors of the partners, and upon that certificate the application was made under sect. 225 to the commissioner, who, as stated, refused to grant his certificate, on the ground that the deed was not a deed of arrangement within the meaning of the 224th section, inasmuch as it contained no assignment for the benefit of the creditors, and also that no evidence had been given that notice was sent to all the creditors, of the application for granting the certificate.

From this decision the firm of Felix Calvert and Co. appealed.

The three clauses which have reference to the deed of arrangement and to this application are the 224th, 225th and 226th.

Bacon, Q.C., and *Roxburgh*, for the appellants, contended that no absolute assignment for the benefit of creditors was necessary, but only that there should be provisions for applying to their benefit the whole of the assets. They referred to *Tetley* v. *Taylor*, 1 El. & Bl. 521; *Fisher* v. *Bell*, 12 C. B. Rep. 78; *Irving* v. *Gray*, 1 Exch. Rep. N. S. 34; *Ex parte Wilkes* 5 de G. M. & G. 418; *Ridgway* v. *Clare*, 9 Beav. 111; *Drew* v. *Collins*, 6 Exch. Rep. 670; *Larpent* v. *Bibby*, 5 H. of L. Cas. 481.

Selwyn, Q.C., and *Bagley*, for the executor of a deceased partner who had been an unsecured creditor for £2,000, objected to the whole construction of this deed, which, they contended, was not so much for winding-up the affairs of the firm as a scheme to carry on the business without limitation; that such carrying on would be at the expense and risk of the creditors, and not of the debtors.

They referred to many of the cases cited by the other side, and also to *March* v. *Warwick*, 4 W. Rep. 598, *McNaught* v. *Russell*, 1 Ex. Rep. N. S. 611.

Daniel, Q.C. and *G. M. Giffard*, for Messrs. Glyn and Co. the bankers, secured creditors for £16,000 money lent, urged against the deed that there must be separate as well as joint creditors; yet there was no proof whatever that any one of the former had executed the deed. It was necessary that six-sevenths in number of such class of creditors should have executed it, in order to make it binding on the remaining one-seventh. It was the same as to value, and of this also there was no proof. The executed deed therefore was not within the 224th section, and the appeal ought to be dismissed.

Bacon, Q.C., in reply, contended that there was no evidence that there was a single separate creditor; the respondents if they relied upon the omission, should have shown that there were such. Again, under the 226th section, the certificate of the inspectors was made *prima facie* evidence, and that certificate had been duly given, and it was incumbent on those who impeached it to bring evidence to displace it.

Their Lordships at the conclusion of the argument reserved judgment, which was delivered on the 13th July, when

Lord Justice Knight Bruce said:—The question upon this appeal is, whether the deed in dispute date the 7th May last ought, as a deed between the appellants and their creditors within the meaning of the 224th section, to be the subject of an order or certificate under the 225th section of the Bankrupt Law Consolidation Act of 1849; and with respect to it, I wish in the first place to say, that however I may have expressed myself on any former occasion (I refer particularly to *Wilks's* case), I am at present not satisfied that we ought to regard as a necessary preliminary to an order or certificate under the 225th section, that the court which is asked for that order or certificate should be convinced of the perfect correspondence and conformity of the instrument, the subject of the application, with the terms of the 224th section. My opinion at this time is, that a case may exist in which the order or certificate may with propriety be made by a court doubting that perfect correspondence or conformity, and that a case may also exist in which the court, though so doubting, may well refuse it. There is, I think, a discretion exercisable according to the circumstances, where the court is not thoroughly satisfied whether according to the true construction of the 224th section—a section, as it must be acknowledged, of some difficulty—it has not or has been perfectly

adhered to. The deed before us commences—that is to say, all of it that precedes its operative part runs thus :—"This indenture, made the 7th May, 1858, between Edmund Saxten Perry Calvert, Felix Ladbroke, William Henry Calvert, Nicholson Calvert, John Johnstone and Alfred Plumer Ward Philips, all of Upper Thames-street, in the city of London, carrying on the business of brewers under the firm of Felix Calvert and Company, of the first part; Henry Kingscot, of No. 96, Eaton-place, in the city of Westminster, Esq., William Robinson White, of Hibernia-chambers, in the borough of Southwark, hop merchants, and John Morse, of Upper Thames-street, in the city of London, gentleman, of the second part, and the several persons, companies and corporations who are respectively creditors of the said Felix Calvert and Co., or some or one of the said partners therein, of the third part. Whereas the said parties hereto of the first part have for some time past carried on the business of brewers in Upper Thames-street aforesaid, under the said firm of Felix Calvert and Co., and the said parties hereto of the first part, or some of them, from time to time carried on the said business under or by virtue of certain agreements, or otherwise, with other parties, since deceased, and the said parties hereto of the first part are, as such partners, possessed of divers personal chattels and effects, including stock-in-trade, machinery, book debts, and other property, both real and personal, belonging to the said firm, and they, or some of them, are respectively entitled to real and personal property as their separate estates, or some part or parts thereof has or have been derived from one or more of such deceased partners, and as separate property remaining in specie of such deceased partner or partners, is or are applicable to the payment of the unsatisfied separate debts of such deceased partner or partners: And whereas the said parties hereto of the first part, some or one of them, either in respect of the said partnership so now carried on, or otherwise, are indebted to various persons, companies, and corporations: And whereas the said parties hereto of the first part, having represented to their said creditors that they are unable at present to pay them the amount of their respective debts in full, it has been resolved and agreed that the business and affairs of the said co-partnership shall be carried on and wound up by sale or otherwise, and the proceeds thereof, with as little delay as the case will admit, applied in or towards satisfying the said debts, under the direction and superintendence of the said Henry Kingscot, William Robinson White, and John Morse, as inspectors for and on behalf of themselves and the other creditors of the said parties hereto of the first part, and hereinafter referred to as the said debtors, and the said Henry Kingscot, William Robinson White, and John Morse, and the survivors and survivor of them, are hereafter referred to as the said inspectors." This deed, which professes to provide, in a manner accurate or inaccurate, efficiently or not quite efficiently, for the separate as well as the joint creditors of a debtor, is executed or signed by or on behalf of a great number of persons as creditors, but does not show what is or was the amount total, or, in any one instance, due or claimed or admitted or believed to be due to them, or to any one or more of them, nor of whom; that is to say, whether, of all, or some or one only of the appellants, any of the persons who by themselves or others execute or sign as creditors, were or are creditors, if at all, or was or is a creditor, if at all; but probably it is, though not from the deed alone, yet from the whole of the materials before us, to be collected, that all who personally or otherwise have executed or signed as creditors, did so as joint creditors of the firm, composed of all the appellants, though possibly not being joint creditors of all the appellants; but there is not, I think, any good reason for not

believing that the deed has been executed or signed by or on behalf of six-sevenths in number or value of the joint creditors of the firm whose debts amount or amounted to £10 and upwards. I do not, however, find any satisfactory—if any—evidence as to the separate debts of any one or more of the members of the firm respectively. It seems to me not unreasonable to think it likely that, during the whole of the present year, each of them must have had some separate creditor for £10 and upwards; nor would it be inconsistent with the whole or any portion of the evidence before us to believe though I have myself neither belief nor disbelief on the point—that the separate debts of the partners respectively amount, and have during the whole of the year amounted, to many thousands of pounds. It is not, however, as I understand the materials, here shown that any separate creditor has executed or signed the deed, or authorised it to be executed or signed. Now, perhaps, in every instance of an indebted firm consisting of two or more persons, but certainly for all present purposes, the language of the deed before us being considered, the word "creditors" in the 24th section must, I think, be held to mean the separate creditors as well as the joint creditors; and being of that opinion, I am convinced that the evidence here falls so very short of showing the instrument in dispute to have been signed by or on behalf of a sufficient amount or proportion of the creditors in number and value within the meaning of the 224th section, that we should not be justified in departing from the learned commissioner's conclusion, whether concurring or not concurring with him in the grounds upon which he arrived at that conclusion. But in holding, as I fear I must hold on the present occasion, that the appeal should be dismissed, I wish to be understood as not intimating any opinion with regard to the sufficiency or insufficiency. the validity or invalidity of any of the grounds of objection to the deed taken at the bar, except that which I have particularly stated, I do not think this is a case for costs.

Lord Justice Turner said—In this case the learned commissioner has refused to certify that the deed of arrangement in question has been signed by six-sevenths in number and value of the creditors; and we are called upon by way of appeal to reverse or vary the learned commissioner's decision, and to direct the certificate to be granted. Two questions were raised upon the arguments of the appeal: first, whether the deed was signed by six-sevenths in number and value of the creditors; and, secondly, whether the deed could at all be considered a deed of arrangement within the provisions of the Bankruptcy Law Consolidation Act applicable to such deeds. In order to determine the first of these questions, it is necessary to see who are the creditors with whom the deed of arrangement purports to be entered into. It is expressed to be made between the six partners of the firm of Felix Calvert and Company of the first part, the three gentlemen who are to be inspectors of the second part, and the several persons, companies and corporations who are respectively creditors of the said Felix Calvert and Co., or of some or one of the said partners therein, of the third part; it is, therefore, on the face of it, a deed of arrangement between the six persons constituting the firm of Felix Calvert and Company, and the creditors of these six persons, or some or one of them. We must look, then, to the statute for the purpose of seeing by whom such a deed was required to be signed in order to bind non-executing creditors, and the 224th section of the statute is in the following terms. [His Lordship then read the section given above.] Then there is a proviso directing the mode in which the amount of the debts is to be calculated; and by the interpretation clause that word "trader" is to be read as "traders," where the deed is to

apply to traders, parties in partnership together. Now, then, this section, where it speaks of the creditors, must, I think, be construed to mean the creditors with whom the arrangement has been entered into; and what the legislature has required, therefore, is, that the deed should be signed by six-sevenths in number and value of the arranging creditors. The question then comes to this, Was there any evidence before the learned commissioner, or is there any evidence before us, that this deed has been so signed? I can find no such evidence. It was said that, by the 226th section of the Act, the certificate was made *prima facie* evidence; but what is the certificate? Not that six-sevenths in number and value of the creditors with whom the arrangement was made have signed the deed, but that six-sevenths of the creditors of the six partners have signed it. The certificate is, therefore, not in compliance with the Act, and can be of no avail, and certainly the parol evidence does not cure this defect. But then it was said that there was no proof that there were any other creditors than those of the six partners. I think, however, that it rested upon the appellants to show that there were no such other creditors. It was upon them to establish the validity of the deed by proving that it had been executed by six-sevenths in number and value of the creditors with whom it purports to have been made. Whether it was incumbent upon them, as was argued at the bar, to show that it had been executed by six-sevenths of each class of creditors, I give no opinion; but upon the grounds which I have stated, I think that the decision of the learned commissioner was right, and that this appeal must be dismissed. It is unnecessary, therefore, for us to give any opinion upon the second point; but it may be right to add that I am not satisfied (although I give no opinion upon it) that this deed could in any event have been upheld. I doubt whether it has not left too much in the power of the inspectors, and whether, under the circumstances of this firm, the property ought not to have been more absolutely devoted to the purpose of winding-up. I may be right also to add that the case *Re Wilks*, referred to in the argument, seems to me to have been pushed, in the argument of *Irving* v. *Gray*, far beyond not only what was intended, but what was expressed. The judgment of the Court in *Irving* v. *Gray*, however, takes a more correct view of the case. All that was meant to be said in it was, that the property must be devoted to the creditors—not that it must be assigned in trust for them. I agree that there should be no costs of this appeal.

Legal Miscellany.

THE LIVERPOOL BOROUGH BANK.

(*Action against the Managing Director, to recover the value of shares.*)

SCOTT AND ANOTHER *v.* DIXON.

At the Liverpool assizes on the 26th August, an action was tried before Mr. Baron Martin, in which the plaintiffs were John Scott and Robert Robinson, and the defendant Mr. Joshua Dixon, the manager of the Liverpool Borough Bank.

The cause, which created considerable interest, arose out of the affairs of the bank, the disastrous failure of which in the autumn of last year caused so much suffering and misfortune to the shareholders and customers of the bank. The court was crowded with merchants, bankers, and com-

mercial men. The plaintiffs sued the defendant, who was a director of the bank, charging him with having falsely and deceitfully declared a dividend and issued a report representing the bank to be in a sound financial condition, and that the capital of the bank remained intact, whereby the plaintiffs were induced to buy shares in the said bank; whereas, in fact, there were no profits to divide by way of dividend, and the bank was then practically insolvent, by which the plaintiffs lost their shares, and had to contribute to calls. The defendant pleaded "Not Guilty," and that the plaintiffs were not so induced to purchase shares.

Mr. Edward James. Q.C., Mr. J. Wilde, Q.C., Mr. Milward, and Mr. J. Brown appeared for the plaintiffs; the Attorney-General of England (specially retained), Mr. Atherton, Q.C., and Mr. Mellish for the defendant.

Mr. James, in opening the case, said: The defendant is sued in this case by the plaintiffs for the purpose of recovering from him the amount of ten shares which were purchased by them in August of last year, together with a further sum that they have been called upon to pay, of £5 per share—a call made subsequently to the failure of the Borough Bank; and the action is founded upon the well-known rule of the law, that where a man has been induced to alter his position for the worse by the misrepresentations of another individual he is entitled to be indemnified against any loss that he may have sustained by reason of such transactions so entered into through the misrepresentation of that other person, and from him. It is a rule based on common sense, and built up with the strictest principle of what is just and right. The Borough Bank of Liverpool, of which the defendant has been for some years a director, was established in the year 1837, upon the remains of a bank belonging to Messrs. Hope and Co. There was, as is usual in such cases, a deed of arrangement amongst the proprietors, whereby the management was vested in certain directors. Now, gentlemen, as to the state of things with regard to the bank. The defendant is a gentleman, I believe, of high position in the commercial circles of the town. Some few years ago he came to Liverpool from New Orleans, where he had acquired during several years an intimate acquaintance with banking transactions. Soon, probably, after his arrival here, the firm with which he was connected having an account with the Borough Bank, and he thinking that with the experience he had acquired he might be able to benefit himself as well as others (for I give him credit for that), it was not undesirable on his part to become a shareholder and a director in the Borough Bank. He accordingly examined the published reports of the directors from time to time, and having made up his mind as to the expediency of joining the company, he purchased shares solely that he might, according to his own words, become a director, and a director he did become, about three years ago. When he joined the bank the affairs were not conducted exactly in a manner provided by the deed. It provides for the management being invested in directors. The directors consisted for the most part of gentlemen of eminence and standing in the town, high in the mercantile world, but they delegated their powers to three gentlemen who were selected from their body, and called managing directors. These managing directors likewise appointed another person called the manager, and it will probably turn out that in the great multiplicity of instances for years gone by, previous to the summer of last year, the manager directed the managing directors, and the managing directors ruled the directors. That will probably be the state of things. All that the directors contributed to the concern was the sanction of their high names, and the lustre which could be shed about the bank by their undoubted respectability. Directors they

were in name, and in name only—"*Lucus a non Lucendo*"—they directed because they had nothing to direct. There were accounts weekly or fortnightly placed before them, which informed them of little or nothing which transpired. They trusted to the managing directors, and it is not at all unlikely that the managing directors trusted too much to the manager himself. There can be very little doubt that Mr. Dixon, with the experience that he had acquired in New Orleans, and with the expectation he had formed of having some part and parcel in the management and direction in the Borough Bank when he became a director, was not satisfied with the state of affairs, nor with the course which matters were taking; and I believe that from time to time he did utter certain murmurings of discontent, but that he never took any active steps to set matters right, which he suspected for some time were going wrong. So matters went on until June last year, when Mr. Dixon (defendant) having been informed that Mr. Smith, who had been manager for some years up to that time, was about to retire, was asked whether he would become a managing director, thereby having, of course, an opportunity of investigating the true position of its affairs. He acceded to the request, returning immediately from London to Liverpool, and setting himself to work at once to ascertain the true position of things; and I believe if he had pursued the dictates of his own heart, and attended to the warnings of his own conscience and common sense, he would have studiously pursued the course which in the beginning he did unquestionably mark out for himself, and this case would not have been brought before you, because probably if not a thoroughly accurate statement of the affairs of the bank, yet at all events one showing that the concern was utterly insolvent, would have been put forth—my clients would never become purchasers of shares, and would, consequently, never have had a right of action against Mr. Dixon. It appears that he did investigate, and had his own serious doubts as to whether there ought to be a dividend. Mr. Smith laid before him a statement which I have never seen, but which I shall call upon my learned friend to produce—a statement which satisfied Mr. Dixon, beyond all question, that no dividend ought under the circumstances to be declared. He was overruled—I am now giving you his own account—but he did not persist in the views which he took. A report founded on that statement of Mr. Smith was furnished to the directors, was acceded to by them, was placed in the hands of a printer for the purpose of being disseminated and sent forth to the proprietors and to the public, showing that there was to be no dividend at all for that half-year, when all of a sudden that report was revoked, and they published a report upon which this action is founded. The plaintiffs, who are hard-working men, not speculators, are employed as warehousemen in the service of respectable houses in Liverpool. They had not means each of purchasing the requisite number of shares, because, by the constitution of the company, less than ten are not transferable. They saw this report, they took it home, they studied it, and they found that, taking it altogether, they thought it would justify them in investing their money in the purchase of shares. They accordingly, acting upon the faith of the report, purchased ten shares in the month of August, and they were registered, I think, on the 23rd of August. Now, that is an outline of the transaction. It is for the misrepresentation contained in the report, with respect to which I shall show beyond all question, that Mr. Dixon, the defendant is intimately connected. They purchased upon the faith of that, and they are entitled to be indemnified by him against the loss to which they are liable. The bank stopped payment on the 26th of October. They were called upon afterwards, with

other unfortunate shareholders, to pay a call, I think, of £5. Now, the report to which I beg to call your attention is this—"Twenty-first annual meeting of the proprietors held on the 25th of July, 1857. Directors for the year," &c. The learned counsel then quoted the formal part of the document, and proceeded—"According to the last report, the paid-up capital of the bank was £900,000, and the reserve fund £101,775 odd. Since that date, two calls of £1 per share have been made upon each of the shares, making the capital £1,000,000." It is, therefore, clear from this report that the actual existing capital of the company, paid up as represented, amounted to £1,000,000. "The net profits of the past year, after the payment of all expenses of management, and after deducting £45,825 for loss by bad debts incurred during the same period amount to £69,318." Therefore, the net profits of the year, after the expenses of management are provided for, and after £45,000 of bad debts during the current year have likewise been deducted, leaves £69,000 odd. Therefore, according to this there would be £115,000 profits, after allowing for bad debts, current, and the year's expenses of management, would leave £69,000 to be divided amongst the shareholders. They say, "appropriated as follows:—3½ per cent. dividend upon £950,000 (that is at the rate of 7 per cent. upon the former half-year) £33,250; 2½ per cent., at the rate of 5 per centum per annum upon a million of paid-up capital £25,000; property tax, £3,000;" making altogether £61,879, leaving a balance of £7,439 6*s.* 6*d.* stated to be carried to the reserved fund. Just let us for a moment look at the figures. It is stated that there is a million of paid-up capital, and upon the former balance-sheet £101,700 of a reserved fund; £7,439 added to that will give £109,000 of a reserved fund. They proceed—"Nearly the whole of the losses above-mentioned have been caused by the frauds of a customer." I believe that was so; one mighty customer did, during the course of this current year, take in the bank to the amount of £45,000. "In winding-up the affairs of 1854, a year which it is well known was most disastrous to those customers of the bank who were in colonial shipping trade, a heavier loss had been sustained in the realisation of the assets than could possibly be anticipated. The directors have thought it their duty at once to reduce the dividend to the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, on the ground that taking even a most favourable view of the liquidation of those accounts, the whole of the reserve fund will be required to meet the loss sustained." The loss now ascertained, after the realisation of the assets and the liquidation of the debts, will amount to so much. They will require something more to place the bank clear than will be met by the reserve fund of £108,000 to £109,000. "The whole of the reserve fund will be required to meet the loss incurred." Not a word is said about the capital being required, but only the whole of the reserve fund will be required. They go on—"And that, on the other hand, taking the most unfavourable view consistent with probabilities, the good current business of the bank will, in their opinion, be sufficient to admit of the regular continuance of the dividend without encroaching upon the capital at the same period in the coming year. Therefore, under the most unfavourable circumstances consistent with probability, the good current business of the bank will enable them, in the following period of the next year—the year 1858, and the month of July—to divide 5 per cent. without encroaching upon capital." Not one word was said about the capital except that. What is the meaning of it? There is the capital intact. The good business of the bank is such that the annual profits—after paying all expenses—the prior losses of 1854 being all liquidated and accounted for—the good genuine business of the bank will enable the directors to pay 5 per cent.

per annum, and not encroach one iota upon the capital. The learned counsel then proceeded to quote:—"In laying this statement before the shareholders, the directors desire strongly to impress upon them that its unsatisfactory character (they had divided 7 per cent. before this) is to be attributed to the affairs of 1854, and that apart from this, the sound and legitimate business of the bank would have enabled it to pay the ordinary dividend (that is, 7 per cent.), and also to add largely to the reserve fund, notwithstanding the losses that have been incurred subsequent to that period. They wish also to state their confident expectation that the change they are making in the policy and regulation of the bank will effectually guard against a recurrence of similar events." Now, what is the fair result of the whole of this report? It represents a million of paid-up capital; it represents all bygone losses before the current year as amply provided for by the reserve fund; and that, without trenching upon the capital, which is still intact, they are entitled, as fair traders, to distribute amongst their shareholders a portion of their profit, amounting to 5 per cent. Now this was a gross misrepresentation, and the defendant knew it. It may be said, Well, that may be so; it may be true that the capital may have been swallowed up; that these assets have not been realised, or debts liquidated, and yet Mr. Dixon may know nothing upon the subject. But I apprehend that the law is clear upon this, that if a man undertake to represent as an existing fact that which he does not know to be an existing fact, whereby another is induced to alter his condition for the worse, he is as much liable as if he misrepresented a fact which he knew not to be the case. I think when I have laid before you proofs of these facts, you will see beyond all question that the plaintiffs, who have invested their whole property, or nearly so, in the purchase of shares in this bank, are entitled, in justice, in law, and in good sense, to call upon Mr. Dixon to recompense them for the loss they have sustained.

The two plaintiffs were called and examined in corroboration of the facts stated by their counsel, after which

Sir Fitzroy Kelly addressed the jury for the defence, contending that there had been no misrepresentation on the part of Mr. Dixon; that he had been connected with the bank since 1854, and that between that year and 1857 he had purchased 130 shares, the amount thus invested being £15,000; that until a few months before the failure, he had not an opportunity of knowing what took place with regard to the actual transactions of the bank; and that, when thoroughly apprised of its condition, he acted only as an honest and honourable man would have acted. He prayed the jury to remember that with which Mr. Dixon was now for the first time in his life charged. He was charged with no mere civil liability, such as all men might have occasion to meet, but he was, for the first time, charged with that which would, if established, impeach, if it did not destroy, his moral character—his character as a man of honour and integrity. He would come before them himself, and state upon his oath what the impression and belief in his mind was, and he (the Attorney-General) did not doubt that the jury would feel that justice required at their hands his acquittal of the charge. He lamented as much as any even the failure of the bank, in which he had himself already lost above £20,000. He was himself as large a loser by its failure as any other director. None had a larger stake involved in the bank, probably, than himself; and therefore, under those circumstances, he (the Attorney-General) submitted that it would be impossible for the jury to come to the conclusion that there was any intention to make a false and fraudulent statement in the mind of Mr. Dixon on the occasion in question. The learned Attorney-General then concluded a forcible address, which lasted from two to three hours.

Mr. Joshua Dixon, examined by Mr. Atherton—I have been four or five years in business in Liverpool. I carried on business in New Orleans thirteen or fourteen years. I hold 1,400 shares in the Borough Bank; I purchased 130 of these so lately as May, 1857. I purchased, between the beginning of 1857 and May, inclusive, about 400 shares for myself. I purchased a similar number for each of the two partners at the same time. Besides the number I purchased in 1857, I had 900 shares. My earliest purchase was in 1854. I have never parted with any at any time. In the year 1854 I was appointed one of the directors; I think it was June or July, 1854. I continued to be a director until the stoppage of the bank, and am now one of the liquidators. I found the real management was carried on by the managing directors and the manager, Mr. Smith. There were two managing directors. There were meetings of the managing directors once a week. There was a fortnightly balance-sheet laid before the directors, which showed aggregate amounts of assets and liabilities. A book was laid before them which contained the statement of all the dishonoured bills. There was a book also containing the amount of bills sent from time to time to the discount brokers for discount. No means were given to the general directors for verifying those accounts; the statements were taken on the credit of the managing directors. I expressed dissatisfaction at the smallness of the information regarding assets and liabilities in 1856. I spoke to the manager about it. In May, 1857, I brought my views in a formal manner before the board. A vacancy occurred in the office of managing director in July, 1857, and I was appointed a managing director. I took a part in the discussions which ended in the report of the 28th of July. I applied to Mr. Smith for information as to the losses of the bank up to that time; and Mr. Smith furnished to me the paper which has been produced. It contains the sum which was represented to be loss. The total amount, including the unfavourable contingency about the steamers was £400,000. This was further reduced to £370,000 by me. Undivided profits on the other hand were taken at £25,000, representing six months' profit ending the 31st of December, 1856; there was suspense account £113,000, being profit by interest and commission charged upon several accounts, and which, not being of a wholly reliable nature, the bank set against possible contingent losses, and did not declare as part of the reserved fund. The next amount, £75,000, was the profits up to June. That, with the reserved fund, makes up £315,000. These figures, therefore, show a deficiency of £55,000. I came to a conclusion that there ought not to be a dividend. I communicated that view to my brother directors. The meeting of the board was very early in July. The majority disagreed with me, and resolved to have a dividend, It was because the customers of the bank and the shareholders might be very much alarmed at the non-payment of the dividend. In agreeing to submit it to the majority I made a stipulation that it should be placed on record that the dividend should not interfere with a full and correct statement of the affairs of the bank. I said paying a dividend out of capital was a logical absurdity, which if they pleased they might commit, provided they placed such a record as I suggested on the minutes. I drew up a draught of a resolution to that effect. That resolution was, that "a dividend of 2½ per cent. be declared, it being understood that the statement to the shareholders at the annual meeting is to be a true and correct representation of the position of the bank, so far as it goes, whatever it leads up to." I drew up a draught report. Finally, I waived my objection, and concurred in the report which was actually presented. At the time that report was laid before the meet-

ing, I believed its statements to be actually true, both as to the paid-up capital and as to the year 1854. Upon the information furnished to me, I believed that the good correct business of the bank would be such as to enable it to carry on its regular dividends without encroaching upon capital. There was not, in my opinion, at the time anything in the report tending to mislead persons conversant with business. I thought that with average profits a dividend might be paid without trenching on capital. I have since ascertained that the profits from June to October were in a greater ratio than that. Beyond the information furnished by Mr. Smith, I then had no information, and could not have had any.

Mr. Edward James having replied upon the whole case,

Mr. Baron Martin, in charging the jury, said, before he proceeded to call their attention to the facts of the case he thought it was a matter he ought to observe, that if it were possible to teach the people of this country and of that town experience at all, the result of the present trial would teach it to them; and if after that trial they would, with their eyes open, deal with banks of this sort, they ought to take the consequences upon their own heads. It appeared that here was a bank with a subscribed capital of one million of money, which persons were found to subscribe for the purpose of carrying on the bank; and by the constitution of the bank and of the law not merely was that one million actually supplied for the purposes of the bank, but the persons who had the direction of it had the power of pledging the credit of the persons who were the proprietors, and who advanced the money to an unlimited extent—to the extent of every farthing they possessed on the earth. One manager, with two directors—three persons—had the entire control over the whole funds of the bank. His Lordship then pointed out to the jury that they must have it established that the report made in July was a false report, and not merely false, but that it was fraudulently made, and with an intention to deceive. The circumstance of the report itself not being true would not be sufficient, unless it were further shown that it was made by the defendant with a fraudulent intention to deceive and mislead. Again, they must be further satisfied that the fraudulent and deceitful statement was made with the intention of misleading the plaintiffs. This latter was the least important point, and if they believed the evidence of Mr. Tinley, that every broker who applied could get a copy of the report, obviously for the purpose of exhibiting it to persons most likely to deal in shares, it would be then for the jury to say whether the report, primarily made for the proprietors, was not also made for the consideration of the persons wishing to deal in shares. His Lordship then read the report and the portions of the other documents which related to it, with the evidence of Mr. Dixon, and pointed out where they applied to either of the questions, upon which he reminded the jury that they must give a fair and liberal construction to everything in determining the conclusions to be drawn.

The jury retired, and after about half an hour's consideration, returned into court and announced that they had found a verdict for the plaintiffs for £142 9*s.* 6*d.*

His Lordship said he hoped this case would be a warning to the whole country.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

THE WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND.

A MEETING of the shareholders of the Western Bank, summoned by the liquidators, was held in Glasgow on the 24th August, for the purpose, among others, of obtaining the sanction of the company to a resolution empowering the liquidators to destroy the bank-notes of the Western Bank now in their possession; and also to obtain power to effect compromises with, take securities from, and give discharges to certain shareholders and debtors of the company. The meeting was well attended, especially by shareholders from the country.

Mr. Ewing, having been called to the chair, said,—You have heard, from the requisition calling the meeting, the nature of the business which is to come before us. It is stated very clearly, though somewhat lengthened by technical terms; but the liquidators have drawn up a report, giving more in detail the views they entertain, and the proceedings they have hitherto adopted, in reference to the matters to be brought before this meeting. The business, then, to-day will consist entirely in considering and voting on two or three dry resolutions, which will be read to you in succession. The first is to cancel and destroy the notes of the bank which are now in our hands. The second is to take powers to make compromises with certain of the shareholders of the company. The shareholders of the Western Bank may be divided into three classes—first, those who have paid or are able to pay the calls made upon them in full. With this class, the present meeting has nothing to do. The next class is those who have invested all they have in shares of the bank, and having lost these, are incapable of paying any portion of their calls, and are rendered quite penniless. These, I am sure, must meet with every sympathy from us; and I am sure they do meet with every sympathy. I am afraid that sympathy is all we can promise them on the present occasion. The third class of shareholders are those who, in consequence of the failure of the Western Bank, have lost all they had invested in it, though they have still a little left. The next thing to be considered is the mode in which the investigation into the cases ought to be taken.

Mr. Raleigh then read as follows:—

"Special report by the liquidators appointed to wind-up, voluntarily, the affairs of the Western Bank of Scotland to a general meeting of that company, to be held within the Merchants' Hall, Glasgow, upon Tuesday, the 24th of August, 1858, at twelve o'clock at noon, for the purposes specified in the circular and published notices calling the same, dated 30th of July, 1858:—

"This meeting has been called for the purpose of obtaining the company's sanction to a special resolution empowering the liquidators, at the sight of the committee named by the company, and subject to such other precautions as the company may deem necessary, to cancel and destroy the bank notes of the said Western Bank of Scotland now in the liquidator's possession, or that may hereafter come into their possession—the amount of bank-notes so to be cancelled and destroyed being always first certified by the said committee, or any two of their number. The total amount of bank-notes of every denomination now in the bank's repositories, according to the cashier's books, is £1,491,926. The necessity of having the notes of the bank cancelled and destroyed, and the expediency of having

this done as soon as it can be conveniently accomplished, will be evident to every one. The sanction of the company to a resolution by which the certificate of a committee that the same have been cancelled or destroyed may be substituted in lieu of the notes themselves as a legal voucher to the liquidators is desirable, and this the present meeting will doubtless see cause to grant. The meeting has been further called to decide which of two alternative modes of proceeding the shareholders will adopt in reference to granting discharges on compromise to partners unable to pay their call on the debts owing by them to the bank. The first of these alternatives is to empower the liquidators to effect compromises with, and take securities from, and give discharges to all or any of certain shareholders and debtors of the company whose particular cases may be from time to time submitted to general meetings; and the other alternative is at once to delegate to the liquidators a general power to effect compromises with, take securities from, and give discharges to any shareholder or debtor of the company. The first of these modes of procedure was the only course competent under the Acts 1856 and 1857. The second has been rendered competent by an Act only passed at the end of the last session of Parliament. To enable the shareholders to decide which of these courses they will pursue, the liquidators will shortly explain the manner in which they have hitherto proceeded in preparing the cases of parties unable to pay in full for the decision of the whole body of liquidators. The same course of investigation will be followed out by them, whichever of the alternatives now allowed by the statutes may be adopted by the shareholders. With the view of eliciting the whole facts of every case in which insufficiency of means to meet the call was alleged, the liquidators, on the 22nd of February, adopted the following resolution:—

"'That when any partner of this bank, either in his or her individual capacity, or as trustee for others, shall apply for a discharge upon payment of a sum less than the calls made, or for the stay of legal proceedings on the ground of inability to make any payment whatever, such persons shall be required, in support of the application, to give written answers to the subjoined queries, and to verify the same by a solemn declaration. That such answers and declarations shall not supersede such further special inquiries as the liquidators may think necessary in each case, or such additional information not elicited by the queries as the parties concerned may think proper to tender for consideration previous to the time when applications fall to be disposed of.'"

"The schedule of queries was framed with special reference to cases in which parties were really unable to meet the call, and care has been throughout exercised not to issue the same, except when distinct and apparently *bonâ fide* statements were made of such inability. Schedules to the number of 227 in all have been issued to parties understood at first to plead inability, and out of these there are only twenty-eight cases in which the liquidators have seen cause as yet to recommend discharges upon the offers made. In some cases the mere perusal of the queries was sufficient to convince the parties that they could not escape payment. In many other cases the facts were such that the liquidators had no hesitation in at once intimating that no compromise would be accepted. In other cases inquiries fell to be made through the agents and correspondents of the bank, and shareholders in different localities have supplied useful information, which has been made available in the liquidation. After full inquiry and negotiation, the local committees of the shareholders appointed to advise in the liquidation were consulted upon such cases as the liquidators felt justified in bringing under their consideration, and in several instances renewed

inquiries were instituted in accordance with their views. After exhausting every method of inquiry and negotiation in the manner thus generally described, the liquidators found about fifty-three cases, representing 381 shares, in which, according to present appearances, nothing whatever could be recovered, and in which the adoption of legal measures would only involve fruitless expense. In twenty-eight cases, as already stated, they have resolved, with the entire concurrence of the committee, to recommend that certain offers of compromise, made on the footing of obtaining discharges in full, should be accepted. The cases referred to are specified in a list appended to this report, which list will be submitted to this meeting, in the event of the first alternative course of proceeding being adopted. The general features of these cases, and the principle on which discharges are recommended, may be shortly stated as follows:—The parties propose each to pay a sum equivalent to a surrender of their whole means as a consideration for obtaining discharge. In a number of the cases the payments are offered by friends, and the liquidators and the committee are of opinion that the arrangements proposed are, in every case and in every event, such as the solvent shareholders, for their own interest, should agree to confirm. The liquidators propose to qualify every compromise with a condition that the parties to be discharged shall assign to the liquidators, for behoof of the solvent shareholders, all right which they may have to any possible surplus of the assets of the bank, and to any claim of relief they may have against any party connected with the bank. For the guidance of the shareholders in deciding upon the course to be adopted, the liquidators have to state that, personally, they have no desire whatever to possess the general powers of compromise and discharge. At the same time advantages may, in most cases, be secured by its being made possible to conclude arrangements implying the discharge of partners, without the necessity of calling two general meetings of the company, which, besides involving very considerable delay and expense, may often lead insolvent parties to prefer sequestration as a more certain and less disagreeable mode of carrying through their discharge—a course which, in many cases, would be attended with loss to the solvent partners of the bank. The delegation of the general power referred to may, however, be agreed to, without practically withdrawing the check hitherto in operation, by accompanying the resolution with a recommendation to the liquidators to exercise the same only with the sanction and concurrence of a committee of shareholders."

The Chairman then read the first resolution, empowering the liquidators to destroy the notes of the bank.

After discussions and questions from shareholders, this resolution was carried.

Mr. Blackadder then proposed the second resolution, taking powers for the liquidators to make compromises with shareholders unable to pay in full.

An amendment was moved by the Rev. Mr. Nelson, but was not seconded.

Mr. Finnie, of Kilmarnock—I think there is an addition to the motion which would be very acceptable to the shareholders, and can be easily understood. It is simply this:—"That such power shall not, without further special authority from the company, be exercised in reference to any party who has been at any time a director of the bank."

After a long discussion, the resolution as originally proposed, with Mr. Finnie's addition was passed unanimously.

The Chairman then said,—I have to intimate that the list of applicants for discharge may be seen by any shareholder at the bank at any time within business hours.

On the motion of Mr. Bannatyne, it was then agreed that five should be a quorum of the new committee.

Mr. Lumsden—We have to state for the information of the meeting, that we are making a balance of books up to the close of the first half-year of the liquidation, to the 31st of July; and that we are proceeding with the careful valuation and analysis of all the assets of the bank. We hope to be prepared to state the result of that examination by the next meeting; but, so far as we have gone, we are sorry to find that the valuation of the committee has not been sustained, and that we think some further call will be required. (Sensation.)

A Shareholder—Will those persons who sold their shares a month or two before the stoppage of the bank be liable?

Mr. Bannatyne—The parties liable for calls are those who at the date of the stoppage of the bank appeared as registered shareholders.

A Shareholder—Can you give us any idea of the amount the next call will be for?

The Chairman—I cannot, and I do not think the liquidators can, and I do not think it would be prudent in them. They are here to speak to facts, and not to anticipations or hopes, so that they may not be mistaken in anything they say just now.

A vote of thanks was, on the motion of Mr. Blackadder, given to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

BANK OF BOMBAY.

At an annual general meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of Bombay, held on the 2nd August, at the bank office, under Section 36 of Act III of 1840, there were present—E. E. Elliott, Esq., in the chair; and Rustomjee Jamsetjee, Esq.

The Secretary, Mr. Stuart, submitted the following statement of the affairs of the bank made up to the 30th June, which was afterwards laid on the table for the inspection of the proprietors.

Proposed by Mr. Rustomjee Jamsetjee,—"That the accounts now submitted be passed as correct and satisfactory."

The meeting then dissolved.

Statement of the affairs of the Bank of Bombay, on the 30th June, 1858.

To proprietors' capital	52,25,000	0	0
Notes and post bills in circulation	69,35,015	12	9
Deposit accounts, receipts, &c.	67,67,486	7	11
Reserved fund, including profit for the half-year ending 30th June, 1858	4,76,796	12	10
Rs.	194,04,299	1	6
By Government securities	46,24,300	0	0
Loans and cash credits	56,11,079	7	4
Bills discounted	11,89,271	2	0
Other securities	3,40,699	5	8
Cash on hand	76,38,949	2	6
Rs.	194,04,299	1	6

Abstract of Profit and Loss Accounts for the half-year ending 30*th June*, 1858.

To House rent and assessment	4,230	8	1
Salaries	27,913	8	0
Stationery	339	7	0
Miscellaneous charges	1,195	2	9
Total expenses of the establishment for the half-year ...	33,678	9	10
Depreciation of Government securities	1,00,000	0	0
Balance carried down	2,78,179	10	6
Rs.	4,11,858	4	4
By Interest account	3,17,893	12	2
Discount do.	74,263	13	5
Commission do.	18,817	15	4
Exchange do.	882	11	5
Rs.	4,11,858	4	4

Profit and Loss.

To dividend for the half-year ending 30th June, 1858, at the rate af 9 per cent. per annum	2,35,125	0	0
Balance of reserved fund at this date	2,41,671	12	10
Rs.	4,76,796	12	10
By balance from profit and loss accounts, as above ...	2,78,179	10	6
Balance of reserved fund on 31st December last ...	1,98,617	2	4
Rs.	4,76,796	12	10

BANK OF BOLTON.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of this bank was held at the bank on the 27th August, when a very favourable report was read by the manager. The dividend declared for the year was 8 per cent. A bonus of 10*s.* per share is added to the paid-up capital, making the shares £9 paid, £3 of which have been added by bonus, from time to time. In addition upwards of £2,000 have been carried to the guarantee fund. The result to the shareholders is over 14 per cent. for the year.

Cordial votes of thanks were given to the directors, and to the manager and officers of the bank.

THE OTTOMAN BANK.

An extraordinary general meeting of proprietors in the Ottoman Bank was held at the London Tavern on the 22nd September, for the reception of the report and the declaration of a dividend; Austen H. Layard, Esq. (the chairman of the board of directors) in the chair.

The following report and statement of accounts were read.

In laying the annexed accounts, audited by Messrs. Tindal Atkinson and J. E. Coleman, before the proprietors, the directors have to remind them that they represent the results of an exceptional period, and a position which has undergone very important and favourable modifications since the 30th of June, the date to which they are made up. The financial crisis of 1857 fell with peculiar force on some portions of the Ottoman Empire. Confidence revived but slowly, and during the greater part of the six months included in the accounts, it was necessary to exercise extreme caution, the difficulty of finding safe and remunerative employment for their funds compelling the branches to retain considerable portions of their resources in their coffers unproductive, while the state of the exchanges rendered any re-distribution of the capital employed a matter of great difficulty. The proprietors are aware that the bank has taken part in the negotiation of the New Turkish Six per Cent. Loan. The directors were induced to enter upon that operation from a strong conviction that the results arising from the appropriation of the loan to the object for which it was negotiated, would be most important and beneficial, both to the Ottoman Government and to the bank. In addition to the immediate advantages accruing to the bank, it has been arranged that the banking business of the loan in Turkey shall be confided to the Constantinople branch. Your general manager, Mr. Falconnet, who was nominated by His Majesty the Sultan, during the past year, a member of the Council of Credit, instituted for the purpose of carrying into effect the financial reforms of the empire, has also been appointed, on behalf of the bondholders, one of the commissioners for receiving the revenues hypothecated for the loan.

The proprietors will doubtless have observed with satisfaction the active steps which have been taken, and are now in progress at Constantinople, towards those reforms. The directors have great confidence that the course pursued by His Majesty the Sultan and his present ministers will result in such a re-organisation of expenditure, as to place the finances of Turkey on a sound basis; and that the redemption of the inconvertible paper money will put an end to the violent fluctuations in exchanges, which have latterly exercised so baneful an influence on the trade and commerce of that country. The balance to the credit of the profit and loss account, to the 30th June last, including the balance of £1,165 10*s.* 8*d.* brought forward, is £12,358 12*s.* 5*d.* In arrriving at this amount, it is to be remarked that the balance of the exchange account of the Constantinople branch has been estimated at 164 piastres per pound sterling, the rate on June 30th; but a very considerable fall in the exchange has taken place since that date. Looking to the present financial position of the bank, and to the profits which must accrue during the current half-year, the directors have no hesitation in recommending the distribution of interest on the capital at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, on account. The directors have to announce the resignation of Mr. R. Campbell, one of their number, and the pressure of business rendering it imperative at once to fill up the vacancy thus created, they have, after communication with several influential shareholders, selected Mr. John Anderson as a director. Mr. Anderson will continue to act in that capacity

until the annual general meeting, in March, 1859, when he will retire, and his election will then rest with the proprietors.

Liabilities and Assets of the Ottoman Bank, 30th June, 1858.

LIABILITIES.

To capital—all paid—25,000 shares at £20 each	£500,000	0	0
Bills of exchange and amounts due by the bank and its branches, on deposit and current accounts	499,936	3	8
Reserve fund	20,000	0	0
Profit and loss	12,358	12	5
	£1,032,294	16	1

ASSETS.

By cash on hand in London and at the branches	£94,127	4	8
Bills of exchange and promissory notes, ditto ditto ...	333,208	14	1
Balances due to the bank in current accounts	249,991	5	1
Loans and securities	345,013	6	9
Leasehold premises, furniture, &c., in London and at the branches	4,954	5	6
	£1,027,294	16	1
Balance of preliminary expenses...	5,000	0	0
	£1,032,294	16	1

Profit and Loss account, 30th June, 1858.

Dr.

1858.				
March 30.	To amount carried to reserve fund, as resolved at the meeting of shareholders, this date...	£20,000	0	0
	Balance carried forward	1,165	10	8
		£21,165	10	8
June 30.	To general charges of the London establishment, including rent, direction, salaries, office expenses, &c.	£5,949	13	11
	Balance	12,358	12	5
		£18,308	6	4

1858.	*Cr.*			
Jan. 1.	By balance brought forward from last account, this date	£21,165	10	8
		£21,165	10	8
March 31.	By balance brought forward	£1,165	10	8
June 30.	By profits to this date, for the half-year ...	17,142	15	8
		£18,308	6	4

We have examined the several statements transmitted from the establishments at Constantinople, Smyrna, Beyrout, and Galatz, and the books in London upon which these accounts have been framed, and hereby certify as to their accuracy, according to such documents and books, from the 1st January to 30th June, 1858.

(Signed) H. TINDAL ATKINSON, JAMES EDWD. COLEMAN, } *Auditors.*

London, 16th September, 1858.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that before making a few observations upon the report which had been placed in their hands, as chairman of the court of directors, he must apologise to them for having been absent from his post on the occasion of the last general meeting; and he must also thank them for receiving the explanation of his absence which was made to them by Mr. Bruce, who presided over the proceedings of that meeting. (Hear, hear.) If he had known the disagreeable task which his hon. friend would have had to perform, he really should have made an effort to have been present to perform his own duties. He thought, however, that on the present occasion they had a more agreeable and satisfactory state of things to report, for the directors could tell hon. proprietors that the affairs of the bank were in a more flourishing condition, and that they looked forward with the most sanguine expectation to the still further increased prosperity of the concern. (Hear, hear.) In the first paragraph of the report the directors said they had to remind the shareholders that the accounts represent the results of an exceptional period, and a position which has undergone very important and favourable modifications since the 30th of June, the date to which they were made up. By that they meant that after the crisis and panic of 1857 a reaction was felt, not only in this country, but it fell with peculiar force on some portions of the East where the business of this bank was carried on. The time of stagnation had, however, now, it was hoped, gone; and there was on all hands a confident expectation of a revival of business in the commercial world. Added to which, as he had just remarked, there was a depression, not only in the bank, but in all businesses connected with Turkey. The state of finance in Turkey had been a matter of the greatest importance, and had caused the utmost anxiety generally, and to the directors of the Ottoman Bank in particular. So great had been their anxiety, that they had proposed to the Porte various schemes for reforming the currency laws, withdrawing the adulterated coin, and depreciating paper money. The rate of exchange, too, in Turkey, had been fearfully high, caused by the large amount of inconvertible paper money, and that was another cause of the previous unsatisfactory state of things. Mr. Bruce, at the last meeting, told the shareholders that this state of things had come to an end, as the rate of exchange had reached its highest point. But this had turned out to be wrong, for the exchange had gone up higher still, till they were from 186 to 187, having increased since the period when the connection of the bank with Turkey commenced from 117 to 186. This showed that all transactions with Turkey were reduced to mere gambling, and there was great danger of the state itself becoming bankrupt. An effort was made to set the finance of Turkey in order, and one of the most intelligent and enlightened of Turkish ministers, Fuad Pacha, was sent by the Sultan to take part in the Paris conferences to conclude the treaty which they had assembled to draw up, and with power to conclude negotiations for a loan, which would have the effect of putting the monetary system into order, and

to allow them to get rid of the depreciated paper money and the adulterated coinage. When the directors of the bank heard of the powers which had been given to Fuad Pacha, they communicated with Messrs. Dent, Palmer and Co., and entered with them into a scheme for appropriating a loan with his government. After settling the terms on which the loan should be granted, Mr. Falconnet went to Paris and conducted the negotiations with the most consummate skill and ability. On the completion of the negociations he returned to this country, accompanied by Douad Bey, an attaché of the plenipotentiary, and he was soon followed by Fuad Pacha himself. The terms were finally settled, and the loan was granted, as they already knew. The directors felt, in pursuing this course, that they were affording temporary aid to the Turkish Government, but in doing so they also looked to the interests of the shareholders of the bank. They also felt that any temporary relief to the Porte would do no good, as it would not result in what was wanted—the putting the financial affairs of that country into good order; and from what had transpired, no doubt the granting of the loan would produce that effect on the Turkish Government. (Hear, hear.) There had been from several quarters great opposition made to the loan. He should not go through all the points of opposition, but there were one or two on which he felt he must make a few remarks. The first and most important objection was that the securities already given were hypothecated, but he could tell them that the directors would not have entered into any transaction of this character without inquiring fully into the validity of the securities offered to them, and he did not see that in the course they had taken they had erred more than the Governments of England and France, to whom the revenues of Syria and Smyrna had been guaranteed in the Four per Cent. Loan. There was no doubt that every effort had been made to secure the payment of the loan, and it would be paid. (Hear, hear.) The territories on which the other loan was secured had been threatened with rebellion, and should such a state of things again present themselves, the revenues would not be in the power of the Turkish Government to deal with them. But still he did not think that Government ever would repudiate its responsibility. In the case of Palmer's loan (the one in which the bank was concerned), the customs of Constantinople had been placed in their hands, so far as the revenues of those customs were concerned. Therefore, he thought that objection was overruled. (Hear, hear.) Another objection was, that the revenues of the customs were not sufficient to pay the £5,000,000 at 6 per cent. They must all know, however, that the customs of Constantinople had much increased of late; in fact, they are now almost double the amount they previously were. Mr. Falconnet and another gentleman had been appointed to see into these matters, and no doubt the interests of all parties concerned would receive due attention. The third objection was, that the loan would not be properly administered. It was said that the Sultan and his family and his pachas would put their hands on it as they chose; but he (Mr. Layard) wished the meeting not to put any belief in the penny-a-liners' stories which appeared in the French and English papers. He assured them that the Sultan had as much command over his family as any English gentleman had over his family (hear, hear, and laughter), and that he was as fully competent to look after the conduct of their expenditure. (Hear, hear.) He must now tell them that he believed that it was the intention of the Turkish Government to put their finances into order by properly revising their currency system. As a proof of that, he knew that all the ministers had put in a good per centage of their salaries as an income-tax (hear, hear), and there was a limit placed upon the

expenses of the great officers of state. In fact, he felt thoroughly convinced that the Turkish Government saw that they must reform their currency laws, and withdraw the depreciated paper money and adulterated coin. It was a thing of the greatest importance to the company that it should be so, and there was no doubt they would derive benefit from the Government putting their affairs into order; in proof of which, showing the good which would result from the loan, many large houses had sent letters to the company, wishing to invest in it. He here begged to observe that the proprietors in this company were deserving of the greatest credit for the way in which they had come forward and enabled the directors to send in their own shareholders as parties to the loan. (Hear, hear.) It was said that the £3,000,000 would not be sufficient to reform the currency system of Turkey. He believed that it would in the way proposed; but there was no doubt that the £5,000,000 would be quite enough to enable the Turkish Government to do it in a proper and complete manner. (Hear.) He could not conclude without saying how much the directors, proprietors, and all parties concerned were indebted to Mr. G. Glyn, M.P., for the great judgment, great skill, and great devotion with which he had acted throughout the whole of the difficult and delicate proceeding connected with the transaction. (Applause.) He could not help believing that very great benefit would arise to the bank itself from this loan, as it had already put their affairs into better condition, and no doubt now they would be able to carry on a first-rate business. He then referred to the rate of exchange at which they had put down their balance, now £12,358, stating that if they had taken it at the exchange of "to-day," it would have been much larger; but the directors felt, after mature and considerable deliberation, that their best policy was to adhere strictly to the rules which they had already laid down for the government of the bank. (Hear.) They had taken their profit and loss account on the rate of exchange of the day. At Constantinople and at Smyrna the rates of exchange were going down very low; and the directors believed that this loan, when applied, would create a perfect revolution in the monetary affairs of the Turks. The directors, not one, but all at the board, had received the most flattering acknowledgments of the services which they had rendered to that Government by the course they had pursued. He therefore thought the shareholders might congratulate themselves on the effects of the manner in which the loan had been negotiated (applause), as it had most materially, and at the same time beneficially, affected the state of the bank. He then referred to the retirement of Mr. Campbell from the board, and said Mr. Anderson had been selected to fill the vacancy, it being most necessary they should do so; but he would retire next meeting, when it would be for the shareholders to express their opinion as to the appointment. The next question was as to the complaints of some shareholders with regard to the large amount of the expenses of the London establishment. He went through various items, showing that £1,883 of the sum was for other expenses connected with the conducting of the affairs of the bank, expressing an opinion that the amount could not be found fault with, it being perfectly legitimate, and had resulted in bringing a large increase of business to the bank, and would ultimately tend to decrease the amount of expenditure, although the business would be increased by it. Therefore, taking all those matters into consideration, he could not recommend any decrease in the London expenses at present. It had also affected the business of branches which had increased fivefold, and the current half-year also showed an increase. He had nothing more to say about the

matter, but to hope that the directors would continue to receive the support of the shareholders in the difficult and delicate duties which they had to perform, and would have to perform. He could only finally say that the directors had paid, and would continue to pay, great attention to the interests of the bank. (Loud applause.) In conclusion he moved, "That the report now read be approved, and the directors be authorised and requested to carry into effect the recommendation therein contained for the distribution out of the profits of the current year of six months' interest, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, the payment to be made on and after the 5th of October, clear of income tax."

Mr. George G. Glyn seconded the motion.

Mr. Digby Seymour expressed an opinion that the reserve fund should be decreased, to allow of a larger dividend, and also made some strong remarks on the directors taking to themselves the selection of Mr. Anderson to fill the seat at the board rendered vacant by the retirement of Mr. Campbell.

The Chairman, in reply, said that the directors felt it was necessary for them to provide themselves against any emergencies by keeping up a good reserve fund, which he hoped would not be applied to make up dividend, for it must be borne in mind that the directors only expected a revival of trade and a lower rate of interest. Although the directors were anxious to see the dividend increased, yet it would be with regret that they saw the reserve fund decreased. With regard to the selection of Mr. Anderson, the directors felt that they were in a fix as to the number at the board, and therefore that they must fill the vacancy, although he admitted that it was an irregularity. At the time of Mr. Campbell's retirement there were several of the directors absent by leave from England, and there was a difficulty in getting a quorum of five, so it was compulsory for the interests of the bank that there should be no vacancy. The shareholders, therefore, should excuse the irregularity, and he appealed to them to support the directors in the step they had taken. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Dent wished there had been more details in the report and accounts, and, as a matter of caution, suggested whether it would not have been better not to have formed any branches. Had they confined their business to Constantinople and Smyrna, and waited till they had thoroughly established that, before forming branches at Galatz and Beyrout, he thought it would have been a more advisable course.

The Chairman, in reply, said the directors did not wish to increase the number of branches, but it was found at the time that many attempts were being made to establish banks in those places, and the directors thought it their duty to keep the business to themselves, which they could not have done had they not formed the branches. The business at Beyrout certainly was rather flat, but they had no doubt it would improve, and that the others would increase. He thought they were perfectly justified in opening branches at those places, in order to secure the business at Constantinople.

In reply to Mr. Ellmore, as to the bad debt and that of Joseph Levi,

The Manager explained that the balance due on Joseph Levi's account was £2,800, although the accounts were not closed, and security was given for the amount. There was only one bad debt, and that was a forgery, amounting to £1,400.

Some further discussion ensued as to the propriety of the board selecting Mr. Anderson to fill the vacant seat; and the chairman having again admitted that an irregularity had taken place, but under circumstances which left the directors no option,

Mr. Anderson said he had been alluded to as the selected director, and

he wished to state that he had joined the board of directors unknown to them, except in one instance. He said when he was selected that he had time at his disposal, and he was willing to give it to the affairs of the Ottoman Bank; but if it was the desire of any gentleman that he should resign, he would do so then and there; but he would come forward again as a candidate for the seat at the next meeting. He made a stipulation at the time he was chosen that he should retire on the occasion of the next meeting; but if it was the wish of the proprietors—if they thought he could not do any good for the bank, he would give up his seat on that day. If that was not their feeling he was happy to say he should devote his time, interest, and ability, to the interests of the bank. (Applause.)

The motion for the adoption of the report and declaration of dividend was then unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Mr. H. Cridland, a cordial vote of confidence in the directors, and thanks for the able manner in which they had managed the affairs of the bank, was then passed, and the same compliment having been paid to Mr. Falconnet (general manager), the meeting separated.

BANK OF BENGAL.

Subjoined is a statement of the affairs of the Bank of Bengal for the half-year ending 30th June, 1858:—

LIABILITIES.

Bank notes and post bills	Rs.	1,35,49,378	4 2
Current accounts		81,67,564	9 9
Cash credits undrawn		6,72,674	13 2
Other claims, payable on demand		18,025	0 0
Proprietors' capital		1,07,00,000	0 0
Reserve fund		4,91,987	4 6
Profit for the current half-year		6,92,822	9 3
Co.'s Rs.		3,42,92,452	8 10

ASSETS.

Cash	Rs.	1,41,72,993	1 9
Government securities		25,73,312	9 7
Dues from Government...		2,75,184	12 6
Loans on deposit of securities...		1,44,33,700	0 0
Accounts of credit on ditto		11,34,200	0 0
Government bills discounted		1,06,806	11 3
Mint certificates ditto		2,93,655	6 4
Mercantile bills ditto		9,36,944	11 10
Doubtful debts		6,105	5 9
Interest outstanding		1,71,069	4 6
Dead stock		1,88,480	9 4
Co.'s Rs.		3,42,92,452	8 10

The statement exhibited above shows the amount of the liabilities and assets, and the position of the bank on the 30th ultimo. The profit and loss account is composed of the following details:—

RECEIPTS.			
Amount received in discounts, interest and commission		Rs.7,96,986	
Amount received from the estate of a deceased defaulter		351	
			7,97,337
DISBURSEMENTS.			
Bank establishment		Rs.78,763	
Pensions		1,510	
Directors' fees		3,350	
Contingencies :—			
Stationery...	Rs.2,744		
Lighting	1,443		
Printing	958		
Advertisements	461		
Miscellaneous	3,763		
Cost for printing the new bank note forms, cheque and pass books ...	8,771		
Allowance for wear and tear of bank property	2,752	20,892	1,04,515
Net profit		... Rs. 6,92,822	

The increase in the amount of the bank establishment, compared with that exhibited in the statement for the half-year, ending 31st December, 1857, arises from the monthly outlay of the sum of Rs. 412-8-0, for acting allowances to some of the European officers, under the arrangements mentioned in the last report, and the increase of Rs. 445 per month incurred by the recent introduction of a graduated scale of salary for the native officers in the accountant's and agency departments, and the employment of additional writers and peons. The increase in the charge for lighting, compared with the sum disbursed for this item in the statement of the previous half-year, is owing to gas being used to light up the bank offices and guard rooms, instead of oil. The sums expended upon buildings and repairs amount to Rs. 483-0-0. The sum exhibited under the item of doubtful debts (Rs. 6,105-5-9) is the amount of loss on the sale of loan deposits during the half-year under review; the sum has been carried to profit and loss. The realisations from loan defaulters, of the half-year ending 31st December last, amount to Rs. 17,689-10-8; further recoveries are in course of receipt.

The directors have declared a dividend at the rate of 12-8 per cent. per annum, after payment of all expenses, providing for the loss above noticed, and adding to the reserve fund the sum of Rs. 17,638-3-6.

The amount of public securities in hand on the 30th ultimo in the depositor's department was Rs. 5,14,23,323, the sum of the commission received during the half-year, Rs. 19,039-5-2, and the charges for establishment, &c., of the departments Rs. 8,901-15-8.

THE JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

THE half-yearly meetings of the several metropolitan joint-stock banks having recently terminated, the subjoined is an abstract of their transactions from the recently published balance-sheets, exhibiting their respective liabilities, assets, capital, reserved fund, and net profits, together with the

amount and rate of dividend and bonus for the past half-year. The total amount of current and deposit accounts is £39,520,537, being a decrease on the former year of £3,580,137. This naturally expected diminution is to be accounted for by the depression arising from the late panic, as well as the present low rate of interest for money on deposit. The banks showing an increase of deposits on the former year are the London and County for £321,002; the Western Bank of London, £37,341, and the City Bank, £4,059. On the other hand, the Union Bank of London exhibits a decrease of £1,842,506; the London and Westminster, £1,469,313; the London Joint-Stock, £410,907; the Bank of London, £145,654; the Unity Bank, £72,566, and the Commercial Bank of London, £1,643 only. The total paid-up capital amounts to £3,961,305, and the reserved fund to £740,266, exceeding 18½ per cent. on the former sum. The aggregate net profits amount to £333,934, or nearly 8½ per cent. on the capital paid up. The proportion of paid-up capital and reserved fund to current and deposit accounts exceeds 11¾ per cent.

Year established.	Bank.	Liabilities.		Assets.
		Current and Deposit Accounts.	Total Liabilities.	Total assets after paying dividend and bonus.
		£	£	£
1834	London and Westminster	12,443,745	13,443,745	13,618,803
1836	London Joint-stock	10,287,623	10,887,623	11,132,764
1839	Union Bank of London	9,032,134	9,632,134	9,818,678
1839	London and County	4,178,283	4,678,283	4,792,461
1839	Commercial Bank of London ...	935,081	1,235,081	1,315,100
1855	City Bank	1,252,250	1,552,250	1,588,184
1855	Bank of London	1,059,352	1,359,352	*1,371,189
1855	Unity Bank	103,447	264,752	†262,236
1856	Western Bank of London	228,622	428,622	‡436,386
		39,520,537	43,481,842	44,335,801

* This sum includes £6,617 preliminary expenses.
† This amount includes £32,118 preliminary expenses and losses on premises, and £37,770 past due bills, estimated to realise £6,000.
‡ This item includes £12,000 preliminary expenses.

CAPITAL AND PROFITS.

Bank.	Capital paid up.	Reserved fund.	Net profits for the half-year ending June 30, 1858.	Dividend and bonus for the half-year.	Rate of dividend and bonus for the half-year.
	£	£	£	£	per cent.
London and Westminster	1,000,000	165,204	93,882	80,000	8
London Joint-stock	600,000	189,819	99,870	67,500	11¼
Union Bank of London	600,000	165,000	67,495	45,600	7½
London and County	500,000	105,000	29,030	25,000	5
Commercial Bank of London ...	300,000	75,000	10,391	9,000	3
City Bank	300,000	30,000	16,591	12,000	4
Bank of London	300,000	8,000	12,365	7,500	2½
Unity Bank	161,305	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
Western Bank of London	200,000	2,243	4,310	nil.	nil.
	3,961,305	740,266	333,934	246,000	

The following table shows the respective deposits in the year ending June, 1857, together with the increase or decrease on the year in amount as well as per cent. :—

Bank.	Deposits, June 30, 1857.	Increase of Deposits on the Year.		Decrease of Deposits on the Year.	
	£	£	Per Cent.	£	Per Cent.
London & Westminster	13,913,058	—	—	1,449,313	10.56
London Joint-Stock	10,688,530	—	—	410,907	3.84
Union Bank of London	10,874,640	—	—	1,842,506	16.94
London & County	3,557,281	321,002	8.32	—	—
Commercial Bank of London	936,724	—	—	1,643	.17
City Bank	1,248,191	4,059	.32	—	—
Bank of London	1,205,006	—	—	145,654	12.08
Unity Bank	176,013	—	—	72,566	41.22
Western Bank of London	191,281	37,341	19.52	—	—
	43,100,724	362,402		3,942,589	

The subjoined table exhibits the respective proportions of paid-up capital to current and deposit accounts, of reserve fund to current and deposit accounts, of reserve fund to paid-up capital, of assets to liabilities, and of net profits to paid-up capital, per cent. :—

Bank.	Ratio of Paid-up Capital to Current and Deposit Accounts.	Ratio of Reserved Fund to Current and Deposit Accounts.	Ratio of Reserved Fund to Paid-up Capital.	Ratio of Assets to Liabilities.	Ratio of Net Profits to Paid-up Capital.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
London and Westminster	8.03	1.32	16.52	101.30	9.38
London Joint-Stock	5.83	1.84	31.63	102.25	16.64
Union Bank of London	6.64	1.82	27.50	101.93	11.25
London and County	11.96	2.51	21.00	102.44	5.80
Commercial Bonk of London	32.08	8.02	25.00	106.48	3.46
City Bank	23.95	2.39	10.00	102.31	5.58
Bank of London	28.31	0.75	2.66	100.38	4.12
Unity Bank	155.93	nil.	nil.	74.92	nil.
Western Bank of London	87.48	0.98	1.12	99.01	2.15

Notes of the Month.

Property and Income-tax.—In England and Wales, in 1856-57, the sum total of £261,069,680 was assessed to the income-tax under the various schedules. The amount assessed in Scotland was £30,498,404. In England and Wales, £103,603,868 was assessed under schedule A, £41,186,404 under schedule B, £26,935,770 under schedule C, £73,511,927 under schedule D, and £15,832,511 under schedule E. In Scotland, £12,548,811 was assessed under schedule A, and £11,109,149 under schedule D. As regards the assessment of £103,603,068 in England, under the (first) schedule A, £41,176,957 was on

lands, £44,994,174 on messuages, £2,694,461 on mines, and £9,209,449 on railways. Such are the assessments. The net amount of income-tax produced by the assessment in 1856-57 in England and Wales was £14,286,062. The tax yielded in 1852-53, £5,388,691, and when it was raised from 7*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.* in the pound (1854-55), the produce was £12,086,522. The increase to 1*s.* 4*d.* only raised the last amount to £13,942,795, in 1855-56. The total property assessed to the tax in Ireland in 1856-57 was £21,488,343. The produce of the tax in Ireland in 1856-57 was £1,289,415. This is the result of a return to the House of Lords. A second return to the House of Commons shows that in 1856-57, 258,800 persons were assessed in Great Britain under schedule D, and 87,498 under schedule E. Under schedule D 20,348 persons had incomes under £100 a-year; 120,650 under £150; 40,086 under £200; 32,665 under £300; 15,006 under £400: 7,407 under £500; 5,471 under £600; 3,105 under £700; 2,066 under £800; 1,745 under £900; 816 under £1,000; 5,423 under £2,000: 1,568 under £3,000, 773 under £4,000; 450 under £5,000; and 811 between £5,000 and £10,000. 444 persons rejoiced in the possession of incomes ranging from £10,000 to £50,000 a-year, and 46 were so supremely blessed as to figure for incomes of £50,000 a-year "and upwards." The pressure of the tax evidently falls upon the smaller incomes, for the largest yield under schedule D (£639,329) is from incomes between £100 and £150. From this point the yield of the tax is in an adverse ratio to the increase of the individual income, until incomes of £1,000 to £2,000 are reached, and here there is a jump from £50,706 to £465,328. After this, there is a fluctuation from £556,294 to £128,599 as regards incomes ranging from £2,000 to £50,000 and upwards, these two figures representing the *maximum* and *minimum* amounts of the produce of the tax within the limits defined. The holders of incomes from £10,000 to £50,000 contribute £556,294, and the fortunate possessors of £50,000 a-year and upwards, £267,503. In Ireland 16,589 persons are assessed under schedule D. In the case of the sister kingdom the holders of large incomes are very limited; only thirty persons possess from £5,000 to £10,000; twenty-one from £10,000 to £50,000, and one happy individual, whose name is worthy of record, although it does not appear, enjoys an income of £50,000 and upwards. Under schedule E 4,157 persons are assessed in Ireland.

New Act on the Funded Debt.—An Act has just been issued to repeal certain provisions for the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of fixed amounts for the reduction of the funded debt. The object of the statute is to repeal certain enactments in former Acts for the extinction of the funded debt by particular amounts, and it is declared that the issue for the reduction of the funded debt by fixed sums, without reference to the relative amounts of the income and expenditure, is inconsistent with the principle established by the Act 10th of George IV., cap. 27, therefore the enactments of the 18th and 19th Victoria and 19th and 20th Victoria on the funded debt are repealed.

East India Revenues, &c.—The grand total expense of the military force of all the presidencies of India in the year 1855-56 (the last return of the series) amounted to £10,974,212—viz., £6,038,530 for Bengal, £2,801,008 for Madras, and £2,134,674 for Bombay. The total expense of the Royal troops was £744,628; of the Company's artillery, £586,635; of the Company's native cavalry, £1,363,248; and of the infantry, £3,745,857. The veterans cost £124,878; the medical department, £157,062; the ordnance, £191,821; the Commissariat, £1,725,506; and the Staff, £1,899,159.

Income and Expenditure.—It appears that for the last four years (ending the 31st of March, 1848) there has been an excess of expenditure over income of £6,196,803, £22,723,854, £3,254,605, and £2,497,346 respectively. The gross total expense of the army, navy, ordnance, and militia was, in 1857-58,

£23,505,157, plus £900,000 for the Persian war, and £590,693 for what is called the "late" war with China. In 1856-57 the expenditure was £34,270,255; in 1855-56, £47,461,188, plus £4,200,000 for a vote of credit on account of the Russian war; and in 1854-55, £28,321,707, plus £1,800,000 for a vote of credit on account of the same war. In 1852 the expenditure was £16,135,906; and in 1853, £16,065,675 plus the expense of the Caffre war.

THE EAST INDIA HOUSE.—A Court of Directors was held at the East India House on the 9th of August for the election of seven members of the Council of India, when the following gentlemen were elected—viz., Charles Mills, Esq.; John Shepherd, Esq.; Sir James Weir Hogg; Elliot Macnaghten, Esq.; Ross Donnelly Mangles, Esq.; William Joseph Eastwick, Esq.; Henry Thoby Princep, Esq.

PATENTS FOR INVENTIONS.—In 1857, 3,200 applications were made for provincial protection, and the number of patents passed thereon was 2,028. 1,976 Specifications were filed, and 1,172 of the applications lapsed on forfeit. 1,474 Applications were made in the first six months of the present year. The income of the Patent Office in 1857 was £99,029, and the expenses left a surplus of £6,005.

SAVINGS BANKS IN ALGERIA.—The following details respecting savings banks in Algeria, in 1857, are extracted from a report recently published in the *Moniteur Algérien*:—"There are only four savings banks in the colony—one at Algiers, established in 1853, one at Bona—and another at Philippeville, established in 1855, and the fourth at Oran, in 1856. In Algiers the new deposits made in the course of the year amounted 341,539f.; the amount in hand from the preceding year was 478,219f., and the interest received was 15,821f.; the total receipts were consequently 835,579f. The reimbursements effected were 362,974f., and there consequently remained on hand at the end of the year 472,605f. The total number of depositors was 1,555, and 483 were new ones, 10 fewer than in the preceding year; and of the total 530 were paid off. The 483 new depositors consisted of 130 workmen, 63 domestics, 50 clerks, 100 sailors and soldiers, 67 various professions, 73 miners. The Bank of Oran received 57,104f. in new deposits, 1,278f. in interest, and it had standing over from the preceding year 30,210f. Its total receipts were consequently 88,593f., and of them it reimbursed 42,871f.; so that it had remaining in hand at the beginning of the present year 45,722f. The number of depositors was 339, of whom 237 were new ones, and these 237 consisted of workmen, 5 domestics, 1 clerk, 199 soldiers and sailors, 7 various professions, 13 miners. The Bank of Bona received in new deposits 25,539f., and from interest 976f., and it had standing over from the preceding year 25,605f.; total receipts, 52,120f. It reimbursed 26,810f., and had in hand at the end of the year 25,310f. The number of depositors was 90, and of them 24 were new ones, the said 24 being 2 workmen, 4 domestics, 7 clerks, 6 soldiers or sailors, 5 various professions. The Bank of Philippeville received in new deposits 11,903f., had in hand from last year 10,240f., and received in interest 426f.; total, 22,575f. It reimbursed 12,978f., and had in hand at the end of the year 9,597f. The number of depositors was 22—namely, 1 domestic, 16 soldiers or sailors, and 5 miners.

THE COINAGE.—It is a thing not generally known that the whole of the coinage of this country is struck by atmospheric pressure. At the Royal Mint there are eight coining presses, each capable of producing sixty pieces of any kind of coin—from the silver three-halfpenny piece of our West Indian colonies to the crown piece of our own circulation—per minute, including stoppages for renewal of dies, &c. These presses are on what is called the screw principle; that is, that the upper die is made to rise and fall by the partial revolution of a powerful screw running vertically through the centre of the press. A hollow

shaft rests upon the centre of the fly arms which surmounts the screw, and attached to it is a lever about twenty inches in length. A horizontal rod, fastened to the lever by a pin and socket, connects the press with a vacuum pump, placed perpendicularly upon a cylindrical vacuum tube lying beneath it. This latter is kept in a state of partial exhaustion (the extent of which is controllable by a relief valve) by the action of an air pump, placed at a distance of nearly 100 yards from the vacuum tube, and worked by a steam-engine. When it is desired to put a press in motion for the purpose of striking any particular kind of coin, the proper dies are fitted, blank pieces brought, and all the proper adjustments made. A communication is then opened by means of a line, lever, and pneumatic valve, between the press, pump, and the vacuum tube; the former is fitted with a piston, and is open at the top. The lower part now, therefore, becomes exhausted, and the atmosphere acting upon the piston carries it rapidly to the bottom of the cylinder, and since the end of the coining press lever is attached to the piston, and the lever to the screw of the press, it follows that a blow is struck on the disc of metal placed under the die—in short, a coin is produced. The whole apparatus now becomes self-acting, and coins fall out from the press as rapidly as described, until the supply of blanks fails, when of course operations cease. The whole coinage of England may be said to have been thus pumped into existence. The eight presses are fitted in precisely the same manner, and when all are engaged in stamping sovereigns the rich streams flow from them with bewildering beauty and richness.

The New Council of India—The annexed is a complete list of the members of the new India Council. It will be seen that all the important interests are fully represented, thus:—Bengal Civil Service, Mr. Prinsep and Mr. Mangles; Madras Civil Service, Sir H. Montgomery; Bombay Civil Service, Mr. Willoughby; Bengal Army, Sir Proby Cautley; Madras Army, General Sir R. Vivian; Bombay Army, Captain Eastwick; The Punjab, Sir J. Lawrance; Affghan Frontier and Persia, Sir H. Rawlinson; Native State, Sir F. Currie; Law, Sir J. Hogg and Mr. Macnaghten; Shipping Interests, Captain Shepherd; Finance, Mr. Mills; Indian Commerce, Mr. Arbuthnot; Public Works, Sir P. Cautley. Several of these gentlemen have claims to represent other departments, as Sir J. Lawrance, Mr. Willoughby, Sir H. Rawlinson, and Captain Eastwick have all been politically employed, and may therefore be said to represent the native princes. The Council met for the first time on the 3rd September, and was presided over by Lord Stanley, who on the previous day was sworn in as Secretary of State for India.

Gold in New Brunswick.—We do not pretend to say in what quantity gold has been discovered on the river's bank above Government-house, about half a mile from the city. This morning the shore is crowded with parties gathering the sand, and washing it out in the river. Portions of it have been tested in various ways by the jewellers, and we have their authority for stating that it is the genuine article, of very good quality.—*Fredericton Reporter*, August 6.

Accounts of the India Company.—The net receipts of the "East" India Company (after deducting repayments) for the year 1856-7, amounted to £29,613,573, and the total payments out of the income (in India) to £6,343,481. The net receipts into the several Government treasuries amounted to £23,270,092. Of the receipts, £18,626,869 accrued from land, &c., revenues, £1,919,030 from Customs, £2,517,726 from salt, and £4,689,750 from opium. The grand total estimated income of India for the year 1857-8 was £27,644,214, and the estimated excess of expenditure over income (including the charges defrayed in England) £9,304,905. The gross total expenditure of India, including all charges, was estimated at £36,949,119. The direct claims and demands upon the revenue would amount to £6,101,970 only, but to this must be added

£3,949,859 for the charges of the civil and political establishments, £2,512,045 for judicial and police charges, £828,393 for roads and buildings, £13,428,426 for military charges, £703,150 for the navy, &c., and £2,297,138 for the interest on the debt, besides other items.

BRANKSEA ISLAND.—On the 14th of September, at the Auction Mart, Brankses Island, Castle and estate, belonging to Colonel Waugh, were offered to public auction by Mr. Driver, under the proceedings for winding-up the affairs of the London and Eastern Banking Company. The estate comprises the Island of Branksea, near Poole, Dorset, containing 760 acres of land, with castle, ports, villas, houses, quay, farm buildings, lakes, and fishery, a new church, terra cotta and pottery works, and mineral deposits of pottery and china clay. The property had been offered to public auction on two former occasions. The auctioneer stated that on this occasion it had been determined to offer it for sale on the Scotch system of naming an upset price at which the property was to be put up, and the highest bidder on that amount to be the purchaser. Having described the property, the auctioneer proceeded to offer it at the upset price of £50,000, but after some time had elapsed, and finding that he could not obtain a single bid, he withdrew it, stating that they had had several offers to an amount beyond the upset price, and that no bid should now be made was one of the mysteries of the auctioneering world. The proceedings appeared to create great interest among the gentlemen present in the densely crowded room.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—Sir E. Lytton has made arrangements for opening a bank at Vancouver's Island, and ultimately in British Columbia. He has also suggested a plan for uniting a fortnightly postal communication to New Zealand and South Australia *viâ* Panama, with a postal service by the same route to Vancouver.

THE ALLIANCE BANK.—An adjourned meeting of the Alliance Bank was held on the 15th September, to receive a statement of the directors regarding the number of shareholders wishing to withdraw from the undertaking, and the number who are prepared to go on. It appeared that out of 10,000 shares the holders of 4,194 had signified a desire to withdraw on receiving back their capital, that the holders of 478 were willing to continue, and that from those representing the remaining 5,328 no answer had been received. Although it was thought a large proportion of the latter might be assumed to be in favour of a continuance of operations, the directors, under the circumstances, had resolved to recommend a winding up, and that the operations of the bank should cease on the 30th September. In reply to an inquiry as to the nature of the assets, the general manager assured the meeting there was no doubt whatever either on the part of the French or English directors that they would not only realise the full amount of share capital, but also a surplus for *pro ratâ* distribution. Resolutions were accordingly passed for the liquidation of the undertaking, and it was arranged that full details of the assets and liabilities, calculated in sterling, should be prepared within a week.

THE DISTRICT BANK, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—The official liquidators of the Northumberland and Durham District Bank commenced on the 14th September, to pay, at their offices in the New Town-hall-buildings, Newcastle-on-Tyne, a composition of 15*s.* in the pound to all creditors whose deposits are under £100; it is taken as a discharge in full, and is gladly accepted by the large majority of the small creditors. The liquidators have also announced that the first instalment of £150,000 has been paid to them by the New Derwent Iron Company, for the purchase of the Derwent Iron Works, and that satisfactory security has been given for the payment of the remaining instalments.

DIVIDENDS UNDER FAILED ESTATES.

Messrs. Rawson and Sons, East India and China merchants, who suspended on the 2nd of June, have issued a circular announcing a first dividend of 5*s.* in the pound.

An announcement of the first dividend of 4*s.* in the pound, under the estate of Messrs. Carr, Josling and Co., who failed during the panic of last year, has been made.

The liquidation of the estate of Messrs. Rawson, Sons and Co., extensively engaged in the China and India trade, is making satisfactory progress. The first instalment of 25 per cent. was announced for payment on and after the 27th September, and further distributions are to be made with all possible dispatch.

Messrs. Denistoun, who suspended in November last, in consequence of the American failures, with liabilities for £2,143,000, and who subsequently arranged to pay in full by six instalments terminating on the 30th of June, 1860, some of which they have already anticipated, issued a notice that they would be prepared on the 21st September last, to discharge that which would fall due on the 30th of June, 1859. There consequently remains to be met only two instalments of 4*s.* each. Of the liabilities in connexion with their Australian house only one instalment of 5*s.* in the pound remained unpaid, and this Messrs. Denistoun at the same time also commenced their intention of discharging at once.

THE PARIS SAVINGS BANK.

The official report has been published of the operations of this establishment in 1857, as read by M. Delessert at the general meeting of the directors held on the 24th June. The following are the principal points of it:—

The total receipts were 25,782,270f., namely—23,538,053f. from 250,716 deposits, of which 33,227 were new ones; 650,545f. from 1,300 transfers from departmental banks; 152,539f. from interest on *rente* belonging to depositors; and 1,441,113f. from the capitalisation of interest due to depositors. The total payments made by the bank were 26,947,002f., namely—22,669,557f. in reimbursements to 90,525 depositors, of whom 28,447 were paid off; 440,351f. in 1,097 transfers to departmental banks; 3,832,052f. in the purchase of *rente* for 5,488 depositors; 2,040f. in the *Caisse de Retraites pour la Vieillesse;* and 3,002f. for what are called "suppressed interest and annulations of abandoned accounts." It thus appears that the disbursements exceeded the receipts by 1,164,732f. As on the 1st of January the sum due to depositors was 45,771,987f., it follows that, after deducting the said 1,164,732f., there only remained in hand on the 31st of December last 44,607,255f., which were due to 226,224 depositors. Compared with 1856, the deposits in 1857 were 997,205f. less; but the reimbursements were 1,312,516f. less also. The

falling off in the deposits is ascribed to the dearness of food and the slackness of trade. The report then gives some details respecting the branches of the bank, from which it appears that the branches are 23 in number—10 in the city and 13 in the suburbs, and that of the total deposits they received 11,512,078f., the central bank obtaining 12,025,975f. Of the branches in Paris, that of the Faubourg St Antoine received the largest amount of deposits—it was 1,563,000f., and was made by 17,886 depositors; that of the Faubourg St. Honoré came next—it had 1,108,000f.; and that of the Faubourg St. Jacques was third, with 1,072,000f. Of the branches in the suburbs, that of St. Denis received the largest amount—namely, 334,000f.; Batignolles, the next largest, 285,000f.; and Neuilly, the next, 235,000f. After remarking on the vast number of distinct accounts which the bank is obliged to keep—in 1857, it was 452,448—and on the admirable correctness and clearness with which they are kept, the report goes on to give some details respecting the new depositors, who, as stated above, were 33,227 in number. This number was less than in that of 1856, when it was 34,774. The amount of the first deposits of the new depositors was in 1857, 4,405,793f.; whereas in 1856 it was 4,822,148f. The falling off in the number of depositors took place in the classes of artisans, domestics, clerks, and soldiers; in the class of workmen there was an increase; other classes remained stationary. In the class of workmen, it was shoemakers, tailors, jewellers, carpenters, cabinet-makers, bakers, gardeners, printers, and engineeers whowere most numerous, and made the largest amount of deposits. The report notices that of late years, and especially since the establishment of branches in the suburbs, agricultural labourers have begun to deposit; it also notices that among the new depositors of last year were 800 men employed on railways, and that the class of masons begins to deposit more largely than it did previously. It makes a somewhat curious remark, that as deposits are only received on Sundays, persons witnessing the depositors collected would from their dress—the men being for the most part decently attired in black, and many of the women in silk gowns—suppose them to belong to a higher class of society than they really do; but it adds that when withdrawals are made the men are almost always in blouses, and the women in modest attire. The report then states that whereas in 1856 the average of each deposit was 207f., it was in 1857 only 197f., and it says that this was owing to an increase having taken place in the deposits of small amount. It also states that the number of depositors was in the proportion of 1 to every 7¼ of the population. It then gives some very long quotations from the report of the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce on the state of savings banks in all France in 1856, and concludes by passing a eulogium on the directors of the Paris bank who died last year, and by some remarks on the extreme utility of such institutions.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following are the chief suspensions announced during the past month, some of which have proved important:—

Aug. 29. Messrs. Rudolf, Jung and Co., Paris, silk trade.
Sept. 3. Messrs. J. Carmichael and Co., Liverpool, Honduras and general merchants.
6. Messrs. Archibald Montgomery and Co., London, Australian trade.

7. Messrs. J. Plowes and Co., London, Brazilian trade.
9. Messrs. Pardoe, Hoomans and Pardoe, Kidderminster, carpet manufacturers.
9. Mr. J. G. Moffatt, Birmingham, brass founder.
13. Messrs. George Chambers and Co., London, pin and needle manufacturers.
16. Messrs. Ascoli, Hartwig and Co., Manchester, merchants.
24. M. Forli, Milan, produce trade.

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

August 29.—Suspension announced of Messrs. Rudolf, Jung and Co., of Paris, in the silk trade.

30.—Announcement of a Turkish loan for £5,000,000 in a 6 per cent. stock at 85.

September 1.—The Directors of the Old East India Company held their last court.

2.—Lord Stanley, at a privy council, sworn in as Secretary of State for India.

3.—First meeting of the New Indian Council, presided over by Lord Stanley, at the India House.

3.—Suspension of Messrs. J. Carmichael and Co., of Liverpool, Honduras and general merchants; liabilities £324,000. At a meeting of creditors it was decided upon winding-up the estate under inspection.

4.—First intimation received of the failure of the Atlantic Telegraph.

6—Suspension of Messrs. Archibald Montgomery and Co., in the Australian trade, with liabilities amounting to about £80,000. At a meeting of the creditors it was arranged that the estate should be wound-up under inspection.

7.—Failure of Messrs. J. Plowes and Co., in the Brazilian trade. Liabilities between £80,000 and £100,000.

9.—Suspension of Messrs. Pardoe, Hoomans and Pardoe, carpet manufacturers, Kidderminster. Liabilities about £100,000.

9.—Failure of Mr. J. G. Moffatt, brass founder, Birmingham, for about £12,000.

13.—Stoppage of Messrs. George Chambers and Co., pin and needle manufacturers. Liabilities estimated at between £40,000 and £50,000,

16.—Suspension of Messrs. Ascoli, Hartwig, and Co., of Manchester, merchants.

22.—The French Minister of Finance notified the reduction of the rate of interest on Treasury bonds from 3 to 2½ per cent. for three to five months' bonds, and to 3 per cent. on those from six to twelve months.

23.—The directors of thr Bank of France reduce the rate of discount from 3½ to 3 per cent.

24.—Announcement of the failure of M. Forli, of Milan, engaged in the produce trade; M. Forli has disappeared, but his liabilities are estimated at £50,000.

25.—The Frankfort Bank raised its rate of discount to 4 per cent.

BANKING OBITUARY.

September 14th, at Church Street, Stoke Newington, Mr. Edward A. Hutton, late of the Bank of England, aged 66.

Sept. 24, at Brussels, Mr. Simon Salter, banker, aged 70.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1858.

ALTHOUGH the operations during the past month, either in a financial or mercantile point of view, have not been important, the steady accumulation of bullion shows the probable future position of the money market. The effect has been influential in some respects, because it is evident that it must eventually create a rise in prices, but it is not yet so certain that the Bank directors will immediately reduce the rate of discount to the old level of 2½ per cent. It is true that the Bank of France have lowered their terms of accommodation to 3 per cent., and that preceding this event a reduction was made in the rate of interest upon French Treasury Bonds. But while this is the case, the directors of the Bank of England seem inclined to watch with caution the probable effects of the approaching plethora. They are evidently disinclined to take measures which shall encourage premature speculation, while on the other hand they cannot prevent a relaxation if they desire to secure profits for the proprietors. A reduction of 2½ per cent. would, no doubt, give some impetus to speculation, and might introduce a number of joint-stock companies, but any serious inflation is not likely to take place in the existing state of business, particularly after the experience of the last three years. An abundance of money may afford a stimulus to general trading transactions and lead to more activity, and it will be much better employed in recruiting the exhausted energies of commerce than wasted in the enlargement of miscellaneous and doubtful adventures. The stock of bullion is now upwards of £19,000,000 and will further increase as the vessels from Australia and America arrive. At present the rate for first-class paper is not lower than 2⅝ per cent., but the bank is gradually losing its business in the discount department.

The English funds have exhibited a recovery from the lowest point of about three-quarters per cent., and are now well sustained. Through the favourable position in which the market stands, and the impression that the present plethora will continue, a further improvement may take place, particularly as there appears to be no immediate prospect of any inflation. Government Stocks and guaranteed shares will, under these circumstances, be the most likely classes to gain attention; and if the rise should once set in, it would speedily become extensive. Exchequer bills and India bonds have exhibited steadiness. East India 4 per cent. debentures are advancing through the low value of money and the estimation they are held in as a preferential investment.

The market for foreign securities has been animated, and a considerable amount of business has been transacted in the scrip of the Turkish loan. It has ranged in value from 1½ premium to 1½ discount, and may now be considered about par; but it is still thought it will undergo considerable fluctuation, the speculators at the Stock Exchange having failed to support the price. Peruvian and Spanish have experienced a considerable rise, but the operators who purchased early in the month have exhibited a disposition to realise, and hence the late partial reaction. Mexican has been steady, through the announced division of the funds in the Bank of England. Dutch, Brazilian and Buenos Ayres have been comparatively tranquil. Russian has been dealt in, but not to any great extent, and reports continue current of the probability of a new loan.

The railway market has experienced some tendency to fluctuation. Prices in a degree are less depressed than at the commencement of the month, and the abundance of money has exercised some influence on prices. Not much activity has been apparent in business, a great number of the dealers

being absent from town. As the traffic on many of the lines presents a tendency to improvement, it is not improbable that a steady recovery will now be visible. French shares have advanced, and Belgium are rather better, but not to the extent that might have been expected under the circumstances. India shares should have risen to a greater extent than they have done, but the quotation of the whole of these descriptions will now steadily improve.

Joint-stock bank shares have been better, and quotations continue to be well supported, with the exception of Australian, which have partially suffered from the announcement of the establishment of the National Bank of Australasia. The shares of the metropolitan institutions are firmer, although, with the present rates of accommodation, the profits secured by the respective establishments cannot be important.

The following are the fluctuations in the English and Foreign Stocks and Railway Shares during the month just concluded .—

	Price on Aug. 30.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Sept. 27.
ENGLISH FUNDS.				
Consols	96¼-⅜	97⅜	96¼	97⅜-½
Exchequer bills	31*s.* to 35*s.* pm.	38*s.* pm.	31*s.* pm.	34*s.* to 37*s.* pm.
FOREIGN STOCKS.				
Brazilian	103	104	103	103½
Buenos Ayres	—	78	77	77½
Chilian	—	106	106	106
Dutch, 2½ per cent.	65⅞	66¼	65½	66
Mexican	21½	22	21⅝	22
Peruvian, 4½ per cent.	92½	93	89½ x. d.	91¼
Russian	113¼	113¼	110 x. d.	111⅛
Spanish	44	46⅜	44	46⅜
Turkish, 6 per cent.	95	97⅜	94½	96½
Ditto, 4 per cent.	104	104¾	103¾	104⅜
RAILWAY SHARES.				
Brighton	109½	110¼	108¾	110
Caledonian	82⅞	86¾	82¼	86¼
Eastern Counties	61	62¼	58¾	61½
Great Northern	100⅝	102½	98 x. d.	102¼
Great Western	50⅜	51⅛	49¾	50⅛
Lancashire and Yorkshire... ...	93⅜	95⅜	92⅛	95
London and North Western ...	92½	92⅞	87½ x. d.	90¼
Midland	97⅜	97½	93¾ x. d.	97
North Staffordshire	12½	12⅜	11⅞	12½
South Eastern	71	73¾	70	72½
South Western	92½	95	91½	94½
York, Newcastle, and Berwick ...	93½	93½	89¾ x. d.	94
York and North Midland	73½	74½	70½ x. d.	75½
East Indian...	105¼	106⅜	104¼	106½
Northern of France	38	40½	38	39¼

THE GRAIN TRADE.

THE grain trade during the past month was not very brisk. In the early part prices showed an upward tendency, but although supplies were freely brought forward, holders refused to sell unless at an advance. This buyers

generally declined to accede to, and consequently the transactions were only on a retail scale. Towards the end, however, the firmness of purchasers compelled the factors to give way, and prices consequently receded to the extent of about 2*s.* for wheat. There was but little alteration in barley, and oats were the turn cheaper.

The *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been :—

Week ending 1858.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
Aug. 21	73,943	... 45 1	... 45 5	... 1 0	... 60 7
„ 28	84,399	... 42 6	... 44 11	... 1 0	... 60 1
Sept. 4	101,510	... 45 3	... 44 9	... 1 0	... 59 4
„ 11	119,237	... 45 1	... 44 8	... 1 0	... 58 8
„ 18	133,600	... 44 11	... 44 8	... 1 0	... 58 4

The importations since the harvest of 1857 have been :—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total Qrs.
Fifty-six weeks ended 11th Aug. ...	4,487,964	4,273,784	8,761,748
Five weeks ended 15th Sept.	333,854	450,356	784,210
	4,821,818	4,724,140	9,545,958

And the *weekly averages* have been :—

Fifty-six weeks ended 11th August ...	80,000	76,000	156,000
Five weeks ended 15th September ...	66,000	90,000	156,000
Less	14,000	More 14,000	Same.

THE STATE OF TRADE.

Notwithstanding business in the manufacturing districts is still limited, there seems a partial tendency to improvement, and in some cases, as movement in the favourable direction is apparent. If the winter trade, as is expected, shall on the average prove satisfactory, the operations during the spring will no doubt be encouraging. It will, nevertheless, take time for a full recovery from the late depression.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

There is still a slight arrear of matter, but it will shortly be exhausted. Correspondents will continue to direct communications to the care of the Editor, No 8, Birchin Lane. All letters, except they involve special questions, must be forwarded by the 20th of the month. Orders for the publication and remittances may be sent to Messrs. Groombridge and Sons.

Nemo (Exeter).—The fact has been circumstantially stated, but no result has followed.

Junior Clerk.—The best books are *Byles* on Bills of Exchange; and *Grant's* work on Banking.

Verax.—Nothing further has transpired, but it is understood that the undertaking is proceeding.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE;

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

NOVEMBER, 1858.

WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND LIQUIDATION.

THERE is, after all, a melancholy satisfaction in finding that our follies, our errors, our misfortunes, and it may be our vices are shared by others. It is consolatary to reflect that, however far we may have departed from the strict path of moral rectitude, there are others who have deviated from it as widely,—that, however severely we are suffering from the consequences of our own errors, others pay as heavy a penalty for the like offence, and that however heavily unforeseen misfortune may have visited us, calamities as great and as unlooked for have fallen upon many around us. But great as is the solace we are enabled to draw from this source as a general rule, the soothing influence becomes infinitely enhanced, when the unfortunate erring or suffering party happens to be one who has claimed credit for more than an ordinary degree of virtue, and held himself up as a pattern of prudence and wisdom to the world.

The three last years will long be remembered in this country, for the repeated shocks which commercial credit has sustained from the failures, one after the other, of numerous large mercantile, and especially of money-dealing firms; and much more so, by the exposures those failures made of a wide-spread leaven of criminal indifference to honesty and honourable principle—fermenting through and contaminating even the highest commercial circles. We were alarmed by the fall of great commercial houses and banks—some of long standing and reputed respectability, others of considerable trade—and we were much more astounded and affrighted at the degree of moral turpitude, of which it has since been proved in too many

instances, that the heads and managers of those establishments were guilty. But when private banks fell in London and the provinces, and joint-stock institutions succumbed less to the pressure of the times than their inherent weakness, we were told in tones and in language which bore as much affinity to exultation as commiseration, that as regards banking more particularly, things were managed in a very different manner on the other side of the Tweed—that in Scotland the true theory of banking was understood—and that the principles upon which the trade was there carried out, while they afforded the maximum of profit for the capital embarked, gave both to the shareholder and the customer a degree of security which almost amounted to certainty. It was no answer to their congratulatory warnings, to point to the ill success of the only bank in the metropolis which professed to conduct its business on the Scotch system, because the Royal British, it would be said, was managed by an English direction, and had fallen into the hands of men who were both ignorant of their business and reckless of character. The great evil of the London joint-stock banking system, it was alleged, was, that, as a rule, the basis of paid capital was insufficient, as compared with the nominal or subscribed capital, and altogether inadequate, in proportion to the business actually done or contemplated.

Setting aside mere details as to the mode and manner of carrying on business over the counter, and which will invariably adapt themselves to the wants and specialties of the community who are the customers, this large proportion of paid-up capital, we were led to believe, constituted the great element of superiority which the Scotch joint-stock banks possessed over those of this portion of the United Kingdom, and which, while it assured the customer of the integrity of his money, gave ample protection to the shareholder. It is certainly not very easy to understand how a few pounds more or less paid upon the shares, except in so far as the additional sum at once paid up is likely to induce greater caution in the shareholders in ascertaining how far the parties who direct and manage are worthy of confidence, can make so material a difference, seeing that the shareholders are liable, not only for the balance due on their respective shares, but collectively and individually for the whole deficit of the bank, should deficit arise. Indeed, the proportion of capital uncalled up is always a debt due to the bank, and an available asset, should circumstances arise rendering it necessary to employ it, either in payment of liabilities, or extending business.

The failure of the Western Bank of Scotland at once dis-

proves the notion that the Scotch banks stand upon a firmer footing than those of England or Ireland, or that inherent strength or infallibility pertain exclusively to the Scotch any more than to the English system of banking, while it altogether dispels the illusion that reckless imprudence, wild speculation, the cooking of accounts, and high dividends paid not merely out of the shareholders' capital, but out of the customers' balances, are things unknown in the management of the Scotch joint-stock banks. In no single case of bank failure in England has anything like the wholesale ruin fallen upon the unfortunate and too confiding proprietors, persons who, deceived by the statements put forward from time to time by the directors, were induced to invest in the Western Bank shares.

When the liquidators were appointed last February to realise the assets and wind-up the affairs of the institution, they found, taking the balance-sheet prepared by the committee of investigation, that over and above the sacrifice of the entire subscribed capital—all of which had been paid up— a deficit as between the assets and liabilities of £304,692. To meet this they levied a call of £25 per £50 share, which, taking into account the number of shareholders who were entirely dependent upon the bank dividends for the means of living, and whom the insolvency of the concern plunged at once from comparative affluence and comfort into destitution and want, and taking into account also such as had no property beyond their shares, and from whom therefore it would be impossible to extract anything in the shape of money, they calculated would produce a sum sufficient to pay off the debts at once and to cover the charges of the liquidation, thus avoiding interest and other expenses consequent upon delay. Their estimate in this respect was more than verified. The shareholders, under the impression that this additional £25 per share, thrown after the £50 already irredeemably lost, would at all events bring them a receipt in full, relieve them from the consequences of errors, for which, though personally innocent, they were accountable in pocket, and close for ever their connection with the Western Bank of Scotland, made the most strenuous and praiseworthy exertions, and to the surprise of the liquidators £505,084 has resulted from the call. But this half million of money and the assets, which have been already turned into cash, have only enabled the liquidators to pay a dividend of 10*s.* in the pound, and as they proceeded with their arduous and difficult duty, they discovered that debts due to the bank which the committee had regarded and they had accepted when they made the £25 call, as good and payable in full, slipped away in

the process of realisation like a rope of sand. Debtors for large amounts, one after the other, became insolvent, and dividends from bankrupts' estates fell far short of the calculation. There is a difference between the estimate of the committee and the more mature and more accurately based calculation of the liquidators, as to the amount likely to be recovered from four insolvent houses only, viz., Jno. Monteith and Co., D. and J. Macdonald and Co., Godfrey, Pattison and Co., and J. and W. Wallace, of £224,959—and there is a total discrepancy between two estimates of the outstanding assets, which will become available of £700,000. The total sum which the liquidators calculate will be necessary to cover the deficiency—after exhausting the call of £25 a share, is no less than £916,684 6*s.* 8*d.*—and in addition to this there is a remote possibility of further loss arising from legal proceedings instituted by certain classes of shareholders as against the bank, and from the suit necessarily prosecuted by the liquidators in the United States against Lea and Co., for the realisation of the American account.

Under these circumstances a further call was unavoidable, and, to the dismay of the unfortunate shareholders who had so nobly and, in too many instances, with so much sacrifice, come forward to meet the former call of £25, notice of another demand of £100 a share was served upon them in the early part of last month. The consternation which this notice has produced throughout the whole of the west of Scotland may be easily imagined. Families who had strained every nerve and exhausted every available resource to pay the £25 a share now find themselves in a worse position than they were in before their praiseworthy efforts were made; while others whose wealth and position enabled them to meet the call by abstracting so many thousands from their trading capital, thus diminishing their future resources, or by forestalling future income, will have to repeat the operation to four times the extent. To add to their difficulty, the whole £100 is to be paid in one sum and immediately, that is, on the 1st of the present month, whereas the £25 was divided into two instalments, for the payment of the second of which four months' time was allowed. How many of those who succeeded in complying with the previous requirements will respond to this new claim remains to be seen. Some of the heaviest shareholders, with an alacrity that does them honour, have already paid the full amount of the call into the hands of the liquidators, at a cost of which the mere money payment can supply no adequate idea; but that many who succeeded in upholding their credit under the pressure of the £25 call must

succumb to this heavier blow cannot be doubted. In fixing the amount at £100 a share the liquidators appear to have had this contingency in view. If all the shareholders were solvent the £100 a share would produce £3,000,000, or if those shareholders who paid the £25 on call were in a position to make the extra exertion now demanded £2,000,000 would result. The deficiency at present estimated, however, is under £1,000,000. It is clear, therefore, that this pro rata charge has been fixed under the unquestionably well founded impression that the £25 call utterly exhausted the pecuniary powers, of at least one half of those who responded to it, as the £100 payment will in all probability reduce to insolvency more than a moiety of those from whom it may be extracted.

Naturally enough the sympathy which is universally prevailing in Scotland for the victims of this atrocious deception, finds expression in the demand for justice against the deceivers; and it is not without a feeling of intense satisfaction that the public perceive a movement on the part of the shareholders to test the power of the law in bringing to punishment those who, betraying the confidence reposed in them, have by false accounts, unfounded statements of prosperity, and the division of high profits when hopeless and irretrievable bankruptcy existed, lured hundreds of unsuspecting and defenceless families to indigence and misery. At a meeting of the committee of shareholders held subsequent to the promulgation of the last rescript of the liquidators, a resolution was unanimously passed to sue for the amount of the calls, the deputy-governor and all the directors who were in office in June, 1857, when the report was issued, recommending a division of 9 per cent. out of the profits of the bank at a time when profits and capital had all been swallowed up in bad and doubtful debts. It is doubtful whether the claims might not be extended to the nominal amount of the shares in addition. At all events, those who, upon the faith of that report, became proprietors, will, upon the precedent of the recent decision against the directors of the Liverpool Borough Bank, be in a position to recover the full amount paid for the shares as well as upon the liquidation calls. All who desire the restoration of commercial confidence in this country, and the purging out of that loose idea of moral responsibility which, like a dangerous virus, has of late years been spreading through our trading system, and sapping the very foundations of mercantile credit, must feel a deep interest in the success of the threatened proceedings, and are called upon to aid, by any support they may be enabled to afford both the Western Bank shareholders in their attempt to make the guilty parties answerable to the law, and the Liver-

pool Borough Bank proprietors in defending the decision of the Liverpool jury against the appeal which, it is said, is to be lodged against it.

RUSSIA AND HER FAIRS.

INFORMATION has just been received from official sources, with full returns of the amount of stock exhibited, and the value of sales made at the fairs held throughout the year over a large portion of Russian territory. These fairs may be regarded as the pendulums which regulate, as well as indicate, the movements of Russia in her progress towards refinement. In a country whose whole governmental policy is guided by the endeavour to repel disturbing principles, it is curious to watch those internal processes by which diverse nationalities or peoples are being slowly interweaved; and the returns to which we allude, taken in connexion with the associations that attach to them, possess, on this account, a special significance. Hitherto, as respects Russia, we have usually been satisfied in substituting contrasts for details, and little regard has been paid to those operative influences which are slowly changing the face of the empire. The quality and price of goods, the means of exchange, the facilities of transport, whatever, in fact, fosters traffic and adds to the gains and privileges of merchants largely concern the future of the country; and surer deductions may be arrived at from taking into view the considerations thus provided than from any amount of speculation on the political phases of national action. The intermediaries of traffic are continually rendering Russia less and less impervious to those wholesome and healthful influences provided by western civilisation. The fairs held in almost every town of any note throughout the extended regions which acknowledge Russian supremacy, each one holding out, as it were, links of connexion to the most remote provinces, are hourly increasing and consolidating the status provided by mutual interest. The local knowledge which they afford, the new desires that they incite, the intelligence which they promote, the views and ideas which they spread, must contribute largely to the gradual elevation of a people composed of diverse races, and whom a bond partly military, partly religious, alone holds together. The trading and mercantile spirit of the Russians would seem to make no account of distances; and it was doubtless in reliance on this spirit, and in trusting to it to fill up the vast interstices left in the course of an extending empire, that Peter the Great ventured

to erect his capital on the banks of the Neva, elevating the head of empire, amidst vast and unpeopled wastes and natural solitudes. Ever since his time the chief care of empire has been not so much to acquire as to consolidate. Whilst new acquisitions have been constantly made and maintained by a common bond of enforced submission, preventing, because anticipating all reaction, the progress of the people and the means for their intelligent co-operation have been provided by their own genius; and, in the course of years, communities and races have become less and less insulated, and patches of population dotted over those immense provinces, more and more brought to shoot out and form towards one another. The connexion established between all parts of Russia by means of individual energy, in the person of the Armenian, the Jew, or the Russian merchant, each acting separately on his own account, will, no doubt, in good time, give place to a higher form of combination. A revolution in national ideas is closely connected with the changes brought about by the spirit of commerce in such active operation throughout Russia. It is not only the Armenian and the Jew, but the Georgians, Swedes, Poles, Germans, Frenchmen, Spaniards, and Englishmen, that are to be met with at these fairs, each representing, in a most effective way, his own proper nationality.

One needs to visit Russia, and to be present on the occasion of holding a fair, to be made aware of the transformations which these assemblages bring about! A few days before the scene of the fair, the area on which it was held was comparatively deserted; the city or village in the neighbourhood exhibited little but the ordinary and dull routine of business. From the time that the trailing bands of merchants begin to arrive, that the tents are pitched, it is another world—"*un autre monde*"—an opulent mart extemporised with such rapidity and such effect as to leave one to wonder whether it is an illusion or a reality. Men and equipages all strange to the place pass and repass one another. The ralutkas, the droschkis, the telegas, dash along with shouts amidst a crowd that seems to come from all climes. Physiognomies are so frequent, so varied, that the stranger surmises how the ends of the world could thus have met. Amidst the crowd, the German is difficult to be known; with so many qualities he has no nationality; he adopts the manners of all nations, speaks all languages, and often a foreign language better than his own. The Sclavonian traits, as those which belong to the Mongul and the Tartar, may be chiefly recognised by their passivity. What riches are exhibited along the immense perspective! Versts and versts of richly decorated stalls, sunshine resting on everything, except

where large tufts of trees scattered here and there provide shadow and repose.

Cotton yarn and cotton stuff, silks, linens, fur, morocco-leather, goats' wool, quintals of soap and oil, wax and gum ammoniac, anise, dried fruit, coffee, rice, are piled up with wrought amber, scented woods, pearls, ambergris and drugs of Arabia and India. It is impossible to enumerate the different classes of stores exposed to view, including almost every possible article of fabrication for luxury or use. From each booth the passer by is assailed by the clamorous outcries of Russian merchants to purchase cotton and printed stuffs of Germany, printed muslins, &c., English fabrics and French articles. Not a Russian seller but will protest that the German merchandise is true German, that the fabrics he seeks to dispose of as English are of English make, and that the French articles have inevitably been brought from France. Yet everywhere else but at a fair or at a town shop, one hears that the country is not wanting in perfect artisans, that every branch of production is fully provided for, and that foreigners are incapable of furnishing articles well made or well finished. The Russians will cite a thousand examples in proof of such assertions. They will make a thousand comparisons between the productions of Russian and foreign workmen. Every table, every chair, every carriage, every article of laboriously chased steel, every composite work, every piece of carved wood to which they point, will speak for itself. To return to the fair, all here appears fresh, elegant and gay; the promenades have all the grand proportions which characterise the streets of the capital of the empire, and which are repeated in the capital of each province. Each central way has a lateral alley running parallel to it, and this triple way runs through and around the area. The crowds full of laughter and gaiety are in continual agitation. At night the whole is lighted up with vast flambeaux, and the picturesque scenes as they start to view call to mind, in the effects brought out from struggling light and shade, the grotesque blending of eastern habits and western views in Russian life. Everywhere, throughout the empire, extremes meet without completely coalescing. It was the complaint of Nicholas that civilisation was hastening on too quickly. Of a surety, "the modes" put on are too superficial, and hitherto all that has been done in the way of incorporation, has been by way of support to pretentious assumptions. We probably end our "day at the fair," in a little chamber opening on a balcony, and lighted up by a pile of fagots, if it is winter time, where we may witness the national dance, listen to the sad, monotonous drawl of the Russian music, inter-

fered with by the creaking of the boards under the heavy tread of the dancers, and watch till we are wearied by that perpetual calmness of expression which "young Russia" has learnt to assume, but which can be only suggestive to the gazer of a glacial and deceptive surface.

The space at command confines us to an exhibit of the returns from fairs held in the Ukraine, the least populous part of Russia. Those of Novgorod, of Bessarabia, of the Caucasus, of Riga are on a scale of far more imposing magnitude.

Districts of	Fairs of	Value of Goods exposed. Roubles.	Value of Goods sold. Roubles.
Kharkoff	Epiphany	40,000,000	25,000,000
,, ...	Intercession ...	9,000,000	6,000,000
,, ...	Assumption ...	12,000,000	8,000,000
Korennaia Poustyne ...	... ...	10,000,000	7,000,000
Poltava	St. Elbe	30,000,000	18,000,000
Krolevitz	Exaltation	7,500,000	5,000,000
Romny	Carnival	7,000,000	4,000,000
,, ...	Ascension	6,000,000	3,000,000
Country of the Cossacks of the Don.			
Mikailovsk	Epiphany	706,000	408,000
Rostoff	... ...	2,082,000	(little sold)
Government of Viatkor.			
Rotelnitch	... ...	441,000	260,000
Government of Vladimir.			
Nicolocharlomisk	... ...	415,000	137,000

In a country where the centres of population are widely scattered, the importance attached to these fairs is necessarily very great. The fair of the Epiphany of Kharkoff is the most considerable of all. It commences on the 5th of January and lasts the entire month. It has been estimated that a hundred thousand wagons are put in motion towards it.

The means of carriage in Russia are everywhere of the rudest kind, and the routes from St. Petersburg to the great seats of population, if not aided by the level nature of the country, would be traversed with the greatest difficulty. The possibility of export trade from the interior depends, under the present means of transit, on the possibility of converting the value of rough and cheap agricultural produce into value of other and lighter forms—a dependence to which Russian commerce would not be liable were improved means of transit supplied. Greatly increased crops of grain in the interior, without improved means

of carriage, or the rise of local manufactures, would be useless. The trade of Russia is to be regarded as lying between two great commercial centres, difficulty and cost of transit, no less than those political purposes coincident with the extent of the empire, operating to determine the nature and direction of exchanges and supplies. As regards the condition of Russia, no other improvement or improvements can be substituted for the establishment of sufficient internal means of carriage, or, short of this, can be made to produce its proper effects.

One has only to visit these fairs to be satisfied how nearly the trading disposition of the Russians approaches that of the Jews, and that Peter the Great was not far wrong when he exclaimed, "I am not in want of Jews; I have enough of them in my empire; I know my subjects." At any rate, trade falls in with the genius of the people. In the merest details of business, in the purchase and sale of any article, though of the slightest value, the Russian finds as full occasion for the exercise of his peculiar talents in bargaining as in the greatest transactions. Where the fraction only of a copek is concerned, the dispute will be carried on between buyer and seller with all the gravity and deliberation, all the time and all the effort attendant on some weighty negotiation. Further encouragement to this habit of dispute over everything that changes hands, is occasioned by the fact, that throughout Russia the price of articles, even of the commodities in universal demand, so far from approaching some general standard, is allowed to vary according to the cupidity of the vendor and the wants of the buyer. Accordingly, any representation on the part of a seller by which the value of goods may be enhanced is resorted to. His business, says the Russian adage, is to acquire; it is for the purchaser to be on his guard as to what he buys. The purchaser, though a Muscovite, will be deceived under his very eyes. In vain the merchant measures out twice the piece of goods he is about disposing of—the second time in order to verify the first measurement; it is no sooner carried off and examined than it is found to fall short of the required length. Naturally adroit, the Russian is only true to his instincts when he indulges in such a ruse. And if the sellers at these fairs, the "petits marchands," deceive the purchaser as to quantity, they are not less scrupulous as to quality. Excellent physiognomists, they discern at a glance whether the purchaser is thoroughly acquainted with what he inquires after; if not, then instead of the genuine article, some fabrication answering to it only in general appearance is tendered.

(*To be continued.*)

COUNTRY BANKERS' CLEARING HOUSE.

THE representatives of the country bankers have been actively engaged recently in promoting measures for the establishment of a Clearing House for their especial advantage, and they have been so far successful as to organise preliminary measures for carrying out that object. At present, however, although meetings have been held, and future plans have been definitively discussed, no actual result has yet been arrived at; but if hearty co-operation is secured, no doubt can be entertained that they are sufficiently powerful to secure the desired facilities.* The merit of the suggestion is due to Mr. William Gillett, of the firm of Messrs. Gillett and Co., Banbury and Woodstock, bankers, who has been personally engaged with the committees appointed to undertake the management of the business. No legal difficulties exist to the arrangements, which it is recommended shall be adopted, and from the appended details it will be perceived that the advantages are numerous and great, and thoroughly calculated to assist not only the country bankers but also the London establishments who act in the capacity of agents.

OUTLINE OF A PLAN FOR A COUNTRY BANKERS' CLEARING HOUSE.

Country banks after stamping their address across each of their country cheques would enclose them altogether in an envelope, addressed to the Clearing House, and forward it by the usual London post.

These packets would be received at the Clearing House on the following morning, the cheques would then be sorted, and forwarded by that evening's post to the respective banks upon which they were drawn, reaching the country banks on the following morning.

The country bank would then order its London Agents to pay the total amount of the cheques so received, to the Clearing House the next day, when the Clearing House would also pay them the amount of cheques sent to it for collection.

If a cheque were dishonoured, it would be returned direct to the remitting bank (the address of which would have been stamped across the cheque) and the amount be deducted from the total paid to the Clearing House, advising it of the same by that evening's post. The Clearing House would then deduct the amount of the dishonoured cheque from the total paid to the credit of the remitting bank, and forward to it the advice.

London banks might also send all the country cheques received by them to the Clearing House, to be sorted and sent off with those received from the country banks. The London bank would be paid the total amount of these cheques on the second day after they were sent

* Since the above was written resolutions have been passed detailing the proposed system of management, and a circular has been addressed to country bankers requesting to know, on or before the 10th of November, whether they desire to clear through this medium.

to the Clearing House, any dishonoured cheques being returned direct to the remitting bank, in the same way as stated above.

A case has been submitted to Sir Fitzroy Kelly, Attorney-General, J. P. Wilde, Q.C., and J. B. Braithwaite, Esq., to ascertain whether any legal difficulty, either by the delay in presentation, or in any other part of the proposed arrangements, exists to render it undesirable to attempt carrying out the plan; and they have decided that no such difficulty exists, and further, that bankers would be perfectly warranted in collecting their cheques through such central medium. They consider also, that the right of bankers being clearly established to hold cheques until the following day, before presenting or forwarding them for payment, and the proposed mode of collection involving no greater delay, there would be no liability on this ground.

Advantages.

To the country bank.—By sending country cheques through the Clearing House, the delays and mistakes in paying over, now frequently occurring, would be avoided.

One letter only would be received containing cheques, and one only sent. The cost of registering all such letters would be trifling, whereas the great number of letters now required to be dispatched renders such a protection too expensive.

From having only one payment to make in London for cheques received, the London advices would be very materially curtailed in *number*.

Instead of receiving from the London agent a long list of payments, made to account there for country cheques sent, the whole would appear in one item. A considerable saving would be effected in clerks' time, postage, ledgers and stationery.

The posts to and from London being much more regular than the cross-posts, the liability of letters being missent or delayed would be reduced, as well as from the increased size of the one letter.

To the London agent.—A large amount of labour would be saved in transmitting advices and receiving payments on account of country cheques, without diminishing the amount passed through the account.

The London banks would be saved the trouble and postage of remitting country cheques paid in by their town customers for collection.

The work in the London Clearing House would be much reduced, as no payments would pass through it on account of country cheques received or sent.

A country cheque by the present plan is entered at least sixteen times by the different parties through whose hands it passes: by this plan the entries would be reduced to two.

The day lost in presentation would be similar to that lost with West End London cheques as now collected. It would not be lost in the following cases:—

Where the cheques are received late in the day, or the country posts leave early.

Where it is more than a day's post to the place where they are payable.

It is proposed that the Clearing House should be an independent establishment, having its own clerks, and under the control of a bankers' committee. It is calculated that ten clerks would be sufficient to sort and forward the cheques of about 100 country banks, the number of clerks being increased in proportion for a larger number of banks.

The expences would be defrayed by a small commission paid by the banks on the amount of cheques sent in for collection. It is estimated that after the preliminary outlay, 1*s.* per £1,000 would meet all the expences, and might be paid by the respective banks quarterly.

The number of cheques to the £1,000 usually averages from 20 to 30, the saving in postage alone would therefore cover a great part of the commission charged.

Suggestions for the Country Banks.

That in sending up its cheques the particulars should be entered on a sheet of paper, and a copy (taken by the copying press, or otherwise) kept for its own use.

That in order to render the cheques valueless, except to the remitting and receiving banks, they should be stamped thus—

Through the Clearing House.

1*st* Oct. 1858,

From —— and Co.——

The envelopes in which the cheques were sent to and from the Clearing House might have printed directions; and in order to have both these and the slips on which the cheques were entered uniform in size, they might be supplied by the same printers to all the clearing banks.

The slips would have printed upon them, "We honour your cheques received to-day." If any cheque were dishonoured it would be noticed thus, "except so and so." Should no cheque be noticed as dishonoured, the full amount would be called for at the London agents. The same rule would apply in the slips sent from the Clearing House to the country bank.

The above mode of clearing, it is suggested, may afterwards be advantageously applied to country notes not payable in London, which have a considerable circulation in some of the northern counties.

PLAN FOR A COUNTRY BANKERS' CLEARING HOUSE IN LONDON.

II.—The London Banks.

LONDON banks, after stamping their address across each of their country cheques, would send them, with a list of particulars, to the Clearing House, at or before twelve o'clock and four p.m.

The cheques would there be sorted and forwarded to the respective banks upon which they were drawn by the evening posts.

The cheques would be received by the country banks on the following morning (or, if more than a day's post from London, in the afternoon), and the country bank would then order the total amount to be paid by its London agents to the Clearing House.

London banks would by this plan receive payment in one sum for the full amount of their cheques sent to the Clearing House, and on the second day after they were sent to it. Any dishonoured cheque would be returned direct to the remitting bank (the address of which would have been stamped across it), the amount of such cheque being deducted by the country bank from that paid to the Clearing House, and by the Clearing House from the total paid to the remitting London bank.

Advice would be sent to the Clearing House, by the country bank, of the cheque having been returned.

By this plan there would be no loss of time either in the cheques reaching their destination, or in the return of dishonoured cheques.

The cheques by being stamped "Through Country Bankers' Clearing House," would be valueless to any third party, and only of value to the remitting and receiving banks.

Advantages to the country banks.—Instead of receiving a number of letters from the London banks, containing cheques upon them, all the cheque would be received under one cover. From having only one payment to make in London for these cheques, the advices would be curtailed.

To the London banks.—A considerable saving would be effected in clerks' time, postage, ledgers and stationery.

There would be much greater regularity in receiving payments on account of country cheques.

From the reduced number of entries there would be less liability to error.

The work in the London Clearing House would be reduced.

The Country Bankers' Clearing House would be established at or near the General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, this part of the plan being worked with that for clearing country bankers' cheques on each other.

A commission of 2*s.* on every £1,000 sent to the Clearing House for collection would defray working expenses which commission would not more than equal the postage saved.

The Clearing House would have its own clerks, and might be under the control of a London Banker's Committee.

Management.

The following resolutions have been passed by the sub-committee* :—

1. That the Bankers consenting to clear, meet and appoint out of their number two London and six country bankers, who shall undertake the sole superintendence of the Country Clearing House.

2. That the managing committee meet as often as may be requisite, and be paid such a sum as may be agreed upon for each day's attendance, besides actual travelling expenses.

3. That three of the committee form a quorum at any of their meetings.

4. That a new committee be appointed annually at a general meeting of the clearing banks, but that each member of the retiring committee be eligible for re-election.

5. That in case of the death or resignation of any member of the committee, the remaining members shall appoint a substitute until the next annual meeting.

6. That the manager, secretary, and other officials employed, be appointed by the managing committee, and that security be taken from each according to the position occupied; the respective amounts of security to be decided upon by the committee.

7. That any possible fraud be fully provided against in the securities taken in each case; and that the manager, secretary, and other officials, be further held responsible to an extent to be fixed by the committee for any loss through errors or negligence on their part, and should any loss ever arise for which the said securities are insufficient, the remainder of such loss shall be paid out of the guarantee fund.

8. That the rate of commission charged to the clearing banks be fixed by the managing committee, such commission being in all cases uniform, and sufficient to meet the expenses of the Clearing House.

9. That any surplus arising out of the above commission be placed to a guarantee fund, which shall accumulate until it reaches £20,000; any amount beyond that sum to be applied to reduce the rate of commission charged to the clearing bank, or for other purposes, at the discretion of the annual meeting.

10. That an entrance fee of ten guineas be paid by every bank, with two guineas additional for each branch, and that such entrance fees be credited to the guarantee fund.

11. That all clearing banks have an equal property in the guarantee fund; and that any bank stopping payment, or for any other reason ceasing to clear, at once forfeit its share therein, and cease to be a member of the Clearing House.

12. That the banking account for current expenditure be kept at the Bank of England, all cheques upon this account to be signed by three members of the managing committee.

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* Any alterations in these resolutions which may be desirable will be made at the meeting of bankers consenting to clear.

IRISH AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

THE Registrar-General's annual returns of the extent of land under crops for the year 1858, and of the numbers of live stock for the same period, were issued on the 23rd September, and are of no little interest at the present time. The general abstracts for each county and province show in statute acres the extent of land under crops in 1857 and 1858, together with the increase or decrease of each crop.

ABSTRACT OF CEREAL CROPS.

	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Wheat	559,646	551,336	—	8,260
Oats	1,980,934	1,976,929	—	4,005
Barley	211,288	190,721	—	20,567
Bere and rye	21,374	16,489	—	4,885
Beans and peas	13,586	12,876	—	710
Total	2,786,828	2,748,401	—	38,427

Decrease on cereal crops in 1858 ... ... 38,427 acres.

ABSTRACT OF GREEN CROPS.

	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Potatoes	1,146,647	1,160,056	13,409	—
Turnips	350,047	337,877	—	12,170
Mangel wurzel and beet-root ...	21,629	30,027	8,398	—
Cabbage	30,011	33,107	3,096	—
Carrots, parsnips, and other green crops	21,602	23,450	1,848	—
Vetches and rape	34,740	33,441	—	1,299
Total	1,604,676	1,617,958	26,751	13,469

Total increase on green crops in 1858 ... 13,282 acres.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

	Acres.	Acres.
Increase on green crops in 1858		13,282
„ on meadow and clover in 1858		54,686
		67,968
Deduct decrease on cereal crops in 1858	38,427	
Ditto on flax in 1858	6,166	
		44,593
Total increase in the extent of land under crops in 1858 ...		23,375

TOTAL EXTENT, IN STATUTE ACRES, OF CEREAL AND GREEN CROPS, FROM 1855 TO 1858, INCLUSIVE.

Years.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Bere and Rye.	Beans and Peas.	Potatoes.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1855.....	445,775	2,118,858	226,629	22,817	18,485	982,301
1856.....	529,050	2,037,437	182,796	19,891	16,034	1,104,704
1857.....	559,646	1,980,934	211,288	21,374	13,586	1,146,647
1858	551,386	1,976,929	190,721	16,489	12,876	1,160,056

Years.	Turnips.	Mangold and Beet.	Cabbage.	Carrots, &c. Crops.	Vetch and Rape.	Flax.	Meadow and Clover.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1855	366,953	22,567	24,121	19,042	29,406	97,075	1,314,807
1856	354,451	22,201	27,968	20,734	29,183	106,311	1,302,787
1857	350,047	21,629	30,011	21,602	34,740	97,721	1,369,892
1858	337,877	30,027	33,107	23,450	33,441	91,555	1,424,578

TOTAL NUMBER OF LIVE STOCK IN EACH YEAR FROM 1855 TO 1858, INCLUSIVE.

	No. of Horses.	No. of Cattle.
1855	556,287	3,564,400
1856	573,408	3,587,858
1857	599,782	3,620,954
1858	610,717	3,661,594
Increase in numbers from 1855 to 1858 ...	54.430	97,194

	No. of Sheep.	No. of Pigs.
1855	3,602,342	1,177,605
1856	3,694,294	918,525
1857	3,452,252	1,255,186
1858	3,487,785	1,402,812
Increase or decrease in numbers from 1855 to 1858	Decrease. 114,557	Increase. 225,207

Total Value of Live Stock in each year from 1855 to 1858, calculated according to the rates assumed by the Census Commissioners of 1841—viz.:—For horses, £8 each; cattle, £6 10*s.*; sheep, 22*s.*; and pigs, 25*s.* each:—

	Horses.	Cattle.
1855	£4,450,296	£23,168,600
1856	4,587,264	23,321,077
1857	4,798,286	23,536,201
1858	4,885,736	23,800,261
Increase in value from 1855 to 1858	£435,440	£631,761

	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
1855	£3,962,576	£1,472,006	£33,053,478
1856	4,063,723	1,148,156	33,120,220
1857	3,797,477	1,568,982	33,700,916
1858	3,836,563	1,753,515	34,276,175
Increase or Decrease in value from 1855 to 1858	Decrease. £126,013	Increase. £281,509	Increase. £1,222,697

THE BANK OF ENGLAND DIRECTORS AND THE "*TIMES*."

THE Bank directors are apparently adverse to the policy of reducing the rate of discount below 3 per cent., and the City writer of the *Times* considers that they are departing from the ordinary rules which should regulate them in this matter. For three consecutive weeks the *Times* had predicted that the directors would lower their terms to 2½ per cent.; but each regular Court day came round, and the directors separated without advising any alteration. In this respect, the vaticinations of the leading journal have not been realised; but the circumstance does not appear to exercise much effect either upon the public or the value of securities. Those who are interested in giving a stimulus to speculative business are in favour of the alteration, while those who desire to profit by a steady revival seem anxious to keep the average rate of accommodation at a fair level. Without discussing the point whether the Bank is still to be regarded as the regulator of the currency or not, it is quite evident that, so long as it is associated with the Government in financial transactions, so long will the public hold it responsible, if only in the light of example, for controlling in some degree the future prospects of the money market. It is asserted that there is a feeling within the Court in favour of regulating the value of money from day to day; and if this were carried out, it might satisfy not only the public, but also the greater part of the banking community. Some complaints are, however, made of the spirit in which these effusions have been directed, especially as they have latterly assumed a dictatorial tone. The ground on which the writer bases his arguments in favour of the alteration is comprised in the subjoined extract:—

"The Bank of England have again abstained from approximating their rate of discount to the terms in the open market. If this should be consequent upon an intention to abandon the system of adopting fixed rates, there will be great cause for satisfaction, but no indications have been given to warrant that inference, their *minimum* charge in all transactions being still 3 per cent. As the Bank cannot permanently lock up their deposits, these deposits being the property of other parties, who would withdraw them in proportion as a false scarcity might be prolonged by any combination of the banking interest, there

are only two ways in which the matter affects the public, but these are of importance. The first consists in the fact that in a large proportion of the mercantile transactions of the country the rate of interest on the balances of accounts current and other settlements, whether with foreigners or home correspondents, is regulated by that of the Bank, and that, consequently, whenever a charge is upheld beyond the fair terms of the market, an injustice is inflicted on all debtors of this class. Were it understood that the Bank would never descend below a certain point, such as 3 or 4 per cent., no wrong would be involved, because every one would know, in entering upon any transaction, the conditions on which his account would stand; but if this antiquated system is to be looked upon as abolished, it is the business of the Bank to see that that which has been substituted—namely, a recognition of the law of supply and demand—shall be consistently acted upon. It will not do for a merchant to find that the practice varies according to caprice. The Bank are bound to make it clearly known that they will follow the market implicitly, or that they will follow it only to a certain point, and that that point will never be deviated from. In postponing a reduction for some weeks after it might have been expected, both from their own precedents and the current terms, they have wavered from logical ground, and to that extent have introduced confusion where all ought to be regularity. The only other manner in which the delay in the reduction, and the practice of making it by a formal jump to a fixed point, can operate on the general interests of the country lies in the pernicious influence exercised in preventing the course of financial affairs from being perfectly smooth. Just in proportion as the movements in any market are natural and orderly the facilities for speculation are diminished. If the discount market were left to its quiet course from day to day, any rise or fall would be gradual, and each man would know that he must exercise his own judgment as to the probability of his being able to negotiate his bills to-morrow on the same terms as at the present moment. Hesitation on the part of the Bank in adapting themselves to the actual state of the market tends to confound the public, and to make them distrust their common sense. A person might reason, 'I can now obtain discount at 2¼ per cent., and there seems a likelihood that this ease will continue for four or five months. Supposing my conjecture to be right, I could enter into such and such a transaction with a fair certainty of profit. But the Bank of England say that the rate should be 3 per cent., and refuse to lend their money for less. They must have some reason for this, and consequently I will do nothing.' Thus the very result that an easy discount market should produce is defeated. A main cause of the abundance is that the spirit of enterprise has been damped by panic, and of course the desirable time for any one to act is when everybody is afraid of acting. At length, however, when people are beginning to recover courage, and when a stimulus is proportionably less needed, the Bank take the step they had previously refused, and the merchant who was deterred from entering upon an adventure at the proper time now makes up his mind to do so, when perhaps there are a hundred

ready to compete on the same field. The game is repeated, and each reduction creates new excitement. The system, in fact, is as if the Bank proclaimed, on the strength of all their traditionary, but non-existent, authority as national regulators of the currency, the respective periods at which people should be timid or bold: 'Do not trust the market,' is at one time their intimation; 'We think the rate ought to be at least one-sixth higher than that which prevails.' At another, they notify throughout the empire, 'We think all classes may now safely speculate. The prospect is such that we have put down our rate one-sixth, and very probably, as we may find that even this will not have the effect we desire, we shall soon take a further step in the same direction.' The warning tone, moreover, is always adopted when the whole community are labouring under an excess of caution, and *vice versâ*. If in times of unreasonable fear the discount market were allowed at once to find its level, a revival of commerce and manufactures would take place so much the sooner, and with this revival a healthy recovery in the rate of discount might occur before the adventurers who play upon public credulity would have a chance of commencing operations. Cheapness of money, like every other condition that happens naturally, is a great blessing; but according to the pedantries of the solemn gentlemen who get great repute for discretion, but who are always the first to lose their senses whenever any real exigency occurs, it is an affliction against which every conceivable preventive or remedy should be put in force. Such persons would deny us light and warmth, because there are incautious people who will occasionally burn their houses down. To protect the simpletons who periodically suffer themselves to be betrayed into inflation, and to keep them from the advantage of being allowed to buy wisdom by experience, our producers and importers are to be forced to pay an artificial price for one of the chief elements upon which their power of working at a profit and of meeting the competition of foreign rivals depends. When trade is prostrate on account of low prices they are to be prevented from having the means by which they could profitably meet those low prices, and give employment to all who depend on them. And these views are so prevalent, and so regularly assented to in parrot fashion by all who want to be considered orthodox, that many who have a clear notion of their absurdity do not care to call them in question, from fear of being supposed to be in the interests of the speculators whose object it is to abuse, instead of to use the opportunities of the period. The tyrannies committed in the name of liberty have never exceeded the reckless follies to which men pompously march under the flag of 'Prudence.'"

THE AUSTRALIAN GOLD FIELDS.

THE latest advices from Melbourne, dated the 16th August, are not of a satisfactory character. Labour is unable to procure employment, and the compulsory idleness of the working classes appears to embarrass the Government. To many this will prove an unexpected position, for in new colonies the most valuable importation is man. The intelligence of a surplus population in this remote dependency would appear almost incredible were it not prominently put forward by the local newspapers; but it is distinctly affirmed and lamented in the *Melbourne Argus*. "It was fully expected," says that journal, "and the expectation was founded on repeated assertions, that the commencement of the great railway works, together with the usual amount of public works in other directions, would at once not only relieve the labour market, but be the means of attracting population from the neighbouring colonies. These expectations, to a great extent, have proved fallacious." It appears that the railways have been commenced, and that other large contracts have been taken and are in progress; and yet the "labour offices of the town are still crowded with anxious-looking men and women, seeking for employment." This does not appear to be an exceptional state of things in the colony; for the writer says that, unless some remedy be discovered and applied, "we shall have a repetition of the demonstrations of the unemployed." He closes his remarks by the somewhat alarming notice that, "on, the whole, the labour question is in a very unsettled state, and appears to be pregnant with difficulties for our local Government."

This intelligence will take many by surprise. Considering the scanty population of Victoria relative to its capital, or fund of wages, it is very certain that the former cannot be disproportionate to the latter. The gold fields appear to be inexhaustible; at any rate they show no sign of being worked out, and the last advices report that three nuggets had been exhibited in Melbourne, of the aggregate value of £14,000, one of pure gold weighing 2,100 ounces. The land, the true source of permanent wealth, invites the plough and spade over hundreds of thousands of untilled acres. A large maritime commerce opens up increasing sources of opulence. To what then are we to trace the difficulties and dangers to which we have referred? We believe the true solution of the problem will be found in the fact that those who are unable to obtain employment are not fitted for labour. All men cannot turn their hands to all things. There is a training for every pursuit in which success can be achieved. Such was the early rush to the auriferous regions that we may be permitted to believe the first who landed on their shores imagined they would pick up gold without any trouble. Hundreds who had never done a hard day's work were grievously disappointed, when they learned to their cost that reading and writing were barren accomplishments in a land where the pickaxe

was more prized than the pen. Of course such persons were useless at the diggings, and they are not more valuable as excavators on a railway. Equally unserviceable are this class to reclaim the land or fence and drain the fields. In fact they violated the old warning, which cautioned speculators not to carry coals to Newcastle. It is not true, then, to assert that there is a surplus population in Victoria, in any absolute sense, or even in the qualified sense that industry presses hard on the fund of wages; but it is true that the right men are not in the right place. It is also noticeable that permanent settlement does not take place to the extent that might be desired, the departures bearing a high ratio of per centage to the arrivals. From April to August of the present year the balance in favour of the colony was only 8,386 souls, the immigration being 13,567 and the emigration 5,181. At this slow rate of accumulation the progress of the colony from year to year must be insignificant.

If the wrong people flocked to the colony on the first announcement of the gold discoveries, it is equally certain that by injudicious shipment our merchants glutted the markets with commodities, and paid the penalty of violating the law of supply and demand. They seemed to forget that the power of consumption was limited, and the declared value of exports on the books of the Customs, credulously accepted as a proof of prosperity, was, in truth, the indicator of false calculation. Goods sent out at a venture were sold at the auction market, and realised a serious loss not only to the shippers, but to the resident importers, whose legitimate home market was ruined by speculative competition. It might have been supposed that experience would have taught prudence, and that these earlier practices would have been discontinued, but the old complaints are repeated in the last advices. "The chronic grievance of excessive shipments is still as loudly proclaimed as ever, the markets being just in that state when buyers of known credit obtain the whip-hand, as mail after mail points to the possibility of shipments again exceeding the already too high average of the past eighteen months." However, it is gratifying to report that more caution has been recently exercised. The total declared value of the imports to the colony, the 7th of August, 1857, was £8,857,820; and during the same period of 1858, £7,792,197; exhibiting a decrease of £1,065,623. The total value of exports in 1857 was £8,163,985; and in 1858, £7,650,378; showing a decrease of £513,607. In the former period the balance against the colony was £693,835; in the latter, £141,819. This diminished balance is a subject of congratulation; for there is no surer sign of judicious commerce than the equivalency of exports and imports. It proves that commodities are given for commodities, or, what amounts to the same thing, that labour is exchanged against labour in equal proportions, in which case no adverse debt exists. The amount of gold shipped from Melbourne during the current year from the 1st of January to the 10th of August, was 1,615,158 ounces; or, at four pounds the ounce, £6,460,632. In the sister colony

of New South Wales there are encouraging signs of increased productiveness in the gold fields. For the first six months of the years 1856, 1857 and 1858, the yield has been respectively 45,190 ounces, 66,150, and 105,397, and it is presumed that if more miners were engaged, the result would be still more gratifying. The *Sydney Empire* makes the following remarks:—"Individual success is far more frequent in New South Wales than in Victoria, and, taken in connection with their respective populations, our mines are the more productive of the two. While Victoria shows a weekly yield of 30,000 ounces to a digging population of 80,000 or 90,000, we have a produce of 4,000 or 5,000 to a population of only 10,000 to 12,000."

The love of sudden acquisition, the hope of being the fortunate discoverer of a rich and massive nugget, and the excitement of adventurous life, rendered the more animating by a pursuit not very dissimilar from gambling, are apt to draw away the sanguine from the slow processes of industry, but gold mines are not the best foundations of colonies. We would rather hear of acres reclaimed, than of the opening of new placers, for of all sources of wealth agriculture is the surest. A mining population is rarely settled; its habits are nomadic, roaming from spot to spot in search of metals, as semi-barbarians migrate in quest of fresh pasturage for their flocks and herds. Where there is no love of locality there is little love of home—the parent of all the domestic virtues from which good citizenship and pure patriotism are derived. Of course Australia is now enriching itself by importing the products of Europe; but its future welfare must depend on the products of its own soil, created by steady, patient, and persevering labour.

A PLEA FOR MESSRS. STRAHAN AND PAUL.

A MEMORIAL, it is said, is about to be presented to the Government, through some of the first houses in London, which will have the concurrence of all who desire to see the law of England respected and the public saved from the reproach of perpetually acting upon impulse instead of conscience. In a few days Mr. Strahan, who was sentenced, with his partner, Sir John Paul, to 14 years' penal servitude, will have completed three years of that term. The feeling is that his punishment should now end. Looking at the immunity granted by Government to other delinquents, it will be inferred that the ground of this movement consists in the frightful disproportion of his doom, and the scandal of seeing the administration of justice swayed by political, aristocratic, or sentimental considerations. This, however, although it would be amply sufficient, is not the motive. In hard equity, and not simply on the plea that if mercy is shown to some it should be shown proportionably to all, Strahan and his partners may now be considered entitled to their liberation; and it will be a grievous thing if, as appears to be expected, any steps should be necessary to bring the Home

Minister to a sense of that fact. Strahan was convicted under a clause in an Act passed 30 years ago, which provided a *maximum* sentence of 14 years' transportation for bankers or other persons misappropriating any chattel or valuable security intrusted to them. If society still think the provisions of that Act such as should be adhered to, there can be no reason why Strahan should be exempted from its operation. Punishment is not inflicted for revenge, but for the sake of reformation and example. The objects of Strahan's confinement must, therefore, be to correct any liability on his part to a repetition of crime, and to deter all persons from a similar course by showing what will be their fate. Continued a single day but for these purposes it must be a wanton infliction of personal torment. Strahan can no longer be kept in servitude as an example, because under an Act passed last year any person committing an offence, such as that for which he is now suffering, will be liable at the *maximum* to only three years' punishment. Nor can it be for reformation, because in fixing the extreme term at three years under the new Act, it must have been considered that that was the proper limit for such a process. The Legislature have, in fact, declared that however it may have been suited to former times, the punishment of 14 years' transportation in such cases is at variance with the milder tone of modern jurisprudence, three years being the utmost that, under any circumstances, should be awarded. In holding Strahan and his partner under the old law, the Government, therefore, are acting precisely on the same principle as if they were to hang a man who had been sentenced to death, although in the interval between his sentence and the execution capital punishment had been abolished for the crime for which he was to suffer. And this spectacle is to be witnessed at a time when, in the case of the Western Bank of Scotland, not only have the law officers of the Crown manifested an open determination to screen all the parties who may be liable to prosecution under the law, as it has been emphatically laid down by Lord Campbell, but when members of Parliament, sheriffs, and other local functionaries are standing up amid applause to outrage public morality by endeavouring to palliate or deny all the iniquity that has taken place, and almost to claim sympathy for its perpetrators. There has never been any cry for the prosecution of the Western Bank directors. The only demand has been that the law shall not be made an engine of caprice and reduced to contempt, and that if it is not brought to bear in their case, it shall be abrogated in all. "I have no vindictive feeling," said Mr. Sandford, one of the shareholders of that concern, at the recent meeting, "and no desire to see the directors brought to the bar of the criminal courts;" and, although his audience consisted of the victims of these personages, the sentiment appeared to be received with approval. It may have been partly prompted by an intuition that criminal proceedings would lessen the chance of pecuniary recoveries, but there was doubtless something better at the bottom. The public, to a certain extent, are disposed to lean in the same direction, but is this leaning to be gratified, or can it be attributed to any creditable emotion, while they not only refuse to bestow a fragment of it upon others, but permit the Government actually to strain the law in some cases to its utmost technicalities in order to prevent the slightest mitigation of its most harrowing penalties? The only ground on which any persons will be disposed to insist on the Western Bank directors being pursued as criminals, is in order to prevent the "vindictiveness" which Mr. Sandford deprecates. Where all are punished alike according to their deserts there can be no vindictiveness; but a certain set cannot be sheltered without making it appear

that there is vindictiveness against the rest. Let the public compare the relative course of these persons and Mr. Strahan. The funds they squandered of the 1,300 families, who trusted in their honour, amounted to more than ten times those which were involved in Strahan's case. While this was going on they were shrewd enough with respect to their own private affairs, and were amassing fortunes, which, as regards some of them, it is said will still be enormous, even after they have contributed to all the calls now made by the liquidators. Strahan had a private fortune of £180,000, the whole of which he merged in the bank. The Glasgow mismanagement was deliberately carried on, as appears from the evidence lately published, during a long series of years, and the parties to whom the directors handed the funds were impostors who might have been detected at any moment. When exposure took place there was a shameful attempt to continue the deception at all hazards; and, finally, when every chance of that kind was crushed, a disposition was manifested to brave everything, and to intimidate the sufferers even from complaining. In Strahan's affair the whole mischief was brought about in less than two years. It commenced, as has often been the case, with an advance of £10,000 to an artful firm, who persuaded them that each further advance was essential to prevent the loss of the first, and when the fraud and delusion burst there was no attempt at concealment or bravado. There was no meeting of dukes, landowners, merchant princes, or eminent historians to patch the matter up. They were sentenced to the heaviest infliction allowed by the statutes then in force. Since that time they have spent three years without the smallest relief from the life, labour and association of the vilest felons, and there is a prospect of eleven yet to come—a sentence virtually of death, since neither are likely to survive it. This may be quite right, but if so our dealings in other cases are more partial and wicked than have ever disgraced any nation pretending to insist upon equal laws for all.—*Times.*

FORGERIES ON THE BANK OF RUSSIA.

For the last three or four weeks an investigation has been going on at Lambeth Police Court into some circumstances connected with a forgery, on an extensive scale, of 10-rouble notes of the Bank of Russia. In the first instance three men, named Richard Webster, John Webster, his brother, and Moses Barnett were taken into custody, and placed at the bar before Mr. Elliott, when Mr. Sleigh, accompanied by Mr. Crehmar, the Russian Consul in London, attended on behalf of the prosecution, and stated that he had been instructed by the Russian Government to prosecute, as it had been found that forgeries of 10-rouble notes had been carried on to a great extent. It has been also ascertained that the plates have been manufactured either by English artisans, or that they had been sent to this country for notes to be made from them.

Inspector M'Kenzie said that on the evening of the 5th October he, with assistance, took the prisoners into custody at No. 4, Portland-street, Walworth-common. They were all in the room. This was about ten o'clock. He had previously seen Barnett go in and afterwards come out. At the police-station Richard Webster said "other persons were more guilty

than they were." I had been in the neighbourhood some time before I entered. I saw Barnett enter, and in about ten minutes after he came out and went for a cab. I saw Barnett and Richard Webster on the Thursday previous in the company of each other. I had not seen John Webster previously.

Inspector Holmes said that he went with Inspector M'Kenzie to No. 4, Portland-street. He found both the Websters there. When they caught sight of him, they both ran along the passage of the ground floor for the purpose of getting into the back yard. Richard Webster tried to make his way upstairs. He passed John Webster, and seized hold of Richard Webster, who had a paper parcel in his hand, which he seized hold of, and which contained some plates. (They were produced.) Barnett was then in the custody of Police-constable Franklin. He (Barnett) was at the door when I entered. Richard Webster said that he had called on Barnett for the counterpart. This was said at the police-station.

Two plates were produced, which were examined by a gentleman connected with the Russian embassy, who described them as being forged.

At this stage of the proceedings the prisoners were remanded; and at the next examination a man named William Woolley, who was accused of making and engraving the plates, was placed at the bar with them, when

Mr. Sleigh, addressing the magistrate, observed that, from the information that had reached the officers, it was perfectly manifest that a deep laid and cunning scheme had been devised to manufacture a number of forged notes on the Bank of Russia, and send them to that country for circulation. Since the last examination of three of the prisoners, Inspector M'Kenzie had apprehended Woolley, who, according to his own confession, was deeply implicated in the present charge, he in fact being the person by whom the plates found on the other prisoners were engraved and supplied to the others. This person he (Mr. Sleigh) was sorry to say was employed at the Arsenal at Woolwich, and actually receiving Her Majesty's pay at the very time he was engraving instruments for the forgery of Russian notes intended as a gigantic fraud on the Russian empire. The learned gentleman then called

Inspector M'Kenzie, who deposed that, in consequence of information that had reached him, he on the day before, in company with two other officers, went to the residence of the prisoner Woolley, 33, Spring's-buildings, Woolwich, and, on seeing him, he said he wished to ask him about a man named Webster, with whom he had some dealings; and the prisoner's reply was, "Well, I sold him some copper." I then asked him if it was copper-plate, and he said, "Yes, I was to have £10 for them, but only got £2 on account." I then took him into custody and brought him to London, and at Bow-street read over to him the charge as it appeared on the sheet, and produced the two plates found on the other prisoners, and all he said was, "I did not engrave them." That morning, while the prisoners, Richard Webster and Woolley, were together at this court, I asked the former if the latter was the person whom he said he had the plates from? and he replied, "Yes." I then said to Woolley, "You hear what he says?" and he replied, "Yes, it's all right."

Woolley here said—"All I can say is that the plates are not perfect; they are not in a working condition."

Serjeant William Franklin, of the F Division, said that since the last examination he went to the lodgings of the prisoner Barnett, and there in the cellar, under the stove, and placed edgeways between two of the joists, found the copper-plate engraving then produced.

Sarah Haylor deposed to the prisoner Woolley's lodging at her house, 33, Spray's-buildings, Woolwich, and to his being visited by the prisoner Richard Webster; and a witness named William Kelly deposed to the prisoner Barnett lodging at No. 10, Upper Queen's-buildings, Brompton, where the plate produced had been found.

William Bull, who described himself as a boatman on the Serpentine, in Hyde-dark, was the next person called. This witness had been the confidant and acquaintance of Barnett, and as such became acquainted with his movements with the other prisoners in the present transaction, of which he gave a lengthened statement. Amongst other things, he said he accompanied Barnett, at that person's request, to the Minories, where, he said, he should meet an old man who would purchase the things; and they there met a third man, who he believed to be a Jew, and who, he remarked, was about to introduce Barnett to the old man. Barnett and this man had some conversation together, but it was in a language which he (witness) could not understand, and they then went into a public-house, where they met the old man. The parties agreed to meet at a public-house in Brompton, and they met there while on their way to that place. Barnett told him he should have to show the old man the plates, and that he (witness) must say he was the engraver of them. The parties met according to promise, and the old man placed a £5 note in the hands of the landlady, as a security for his coming the following night, and said that if he did not come, he should forfeit it. The witness said the plate produced had been shown to him by the prisoner, Richard Webster, but in his cross-examination he prevaricated, and said the plate had been folded up in paper when he saw it in Webster's possession.

Mr. Heard, a gentleman connected with the Russian Embassy, said that the plate produced would engrave the back part of any Russian note.

Inspector Holmes was recalled, and deposed that on the 8th instant he was present when the prisoner Woolley was taken into custody at Woolwich by Inspector M'Kenzie, and accompanied that officer and his prisoner to town. In the City Mr. M'Kenzie had occasion to call at the solicitor's, and left Woolley in his (witness's) custody, and while together the prisoner said, "Can they do anything with me, the plates are not perfect?" I, said the witness, told him I did not know. The prisoner then said, "They are not correct; they have got me into it. What a fool I should be to make them correct. They got me to do it." I was present at this court when Inspector M'Kenzie confronted Woolley with Richard Webster, and, producing the plates, asked the latter if the former was the man he got them from, and Webster replied that he was, and Woolley added, "What he says is right." I was also present when the third plate produced was found at the residence of Barnett, in Knightsbridge.

A witness named Kelly deposed to Barnett's residing at the house in question.

Mrs Mary Ann Dalton, a widow, residing near Woolwich, said that the prisoner Woolley resided at her house up to six or seven weeks ago, and while there she noticed a plate similar to that produced in his room. The plate was not so bright as it then appeared, but she noticed that it had something written on it, and the prisoner asked her if she did not think it a clever piece of workmanship, and said he did it himself. She asked him what it was good for, and he replied, she did not understand it, as she could not read.

Other witnesses were called, whose testimony was a mere corroboration of the evidence before given; and after a lengthened investigation Mr.

Sleigh asked for another remand, when he said he should complete his case and call on his Worship to send the prisoners for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

The prisoners stand accordingly remanded, but John Webster was admitted to bail.

THE RAILWAY INTEREST OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE condition and prospects of the railway interest has occupied recently more than a usual share of attention in the public mind, various causes conducing to this publicity. First, the serious misunderstanding which has now so long existed between the great lines leading to the north, with respect to fares; secondly, the closing of the various half-yearly meetings; and, thirdly, the publication of Captain Galton's periodical report to the Board of Trade. Now, with all the cavil, and the despondency arising from low dividends and declining traffic, there is still much that is satisfactory to be noticed, and the prospects are certainly brightening as to the future.

It is much to be regretted that undertakings, in which such enormous capital is invested as the London and North Western, the Great Northern, and the Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire lines, cannot so manage to conduct their affairs as to prevent that serious competition which has led to so great a falling-off in their returns, and which, according to present appearances, is not likely speedily to be brought to a termination. We have on previous occasions pointed out the folly of such insane competitions, particularly in the case of Reading, to which place the Great Western, the South Eastern, and South Western, for some time carried passengers there and back for 2*s.*; but after sustaining enormous losses, a satisfactory arrangement was made, equitable fares were resorted to, and we believe, now, although the number of passengers has very materially decreased, the traffic is conducted at a gain to the shareholders. But the losses sustained by the northern lines are far more serious, from their nature and extent, than those of the western lines; for instance, the loss by this competition to the London and North Western, at the time their half-yearly report was made up, was not less than between £70,000 and £80,000; and the only consolation the Marquis of Chandos, the chairman of the directors, could give to the shareholders at their last meeting was, that if such an enormous sum had been lost to them, at least the money had not gone into the pockets of their rivals; and Mr. Chapman, the chairman of the Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire Companies, admits to his constituents that "there is no doubt this company has lost money by the competition;" but at the same time seemed to feel some pleasure in asserting that their means of doing mischief are not yet exhausted, and that the chance of their ruining the North Western are greater than the

chances that the North Western will ruin them. A very pretty picture indeed; and where the mischief is to end seems as problematical as ever. It would be supposed that in such a state of things the shareholders would themselves step in and put an end to so suicidal a course; but as they do not interfere, it appears that, like a parcel of schoolboys, they regard the contest as real "fun." Perhaps, after the non-declaration of dividends at two or three meetings, they may begin to think otherwise, and find out, when too late, they will have to pay dearly for their folly.

A very important railway conference was held recently at the Euston Hotel, at which the representatives of a large number of lines attended, when it was resolved to form a permanent organisation, to be called the "Railway Companies Association," and a committee was appointed to prepare the necessary rules and regulations, consisting of the following gentlemen:—The Marquis of Chandos, Sir Andrew Orr, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Beale, Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Leeman, and Mr. Watkin.

Examining the general statistical returns of the past year, we find that the total receipts from all sources of traffic are a few pounds lower per mile in England and Wales, and Ireland, but have improved in Scotland, over those of the previous year. The proportion which the working expenses have borne to the receipts, has been 48 per cent. in England and Wales, as compared with 49 per cent. in the previous year; 44 per cent. in Scotland, as compared with 47 previously; and 38 per cent. in Ireland, as compared with 39 per cent. previously. The general average having been 47 per cent. upon the gross receipts in both previous. Comparing the declared dividends for the first half-year of 1858 with those of the corresponding half-year of 1857, we find the following results:—The principal trunk lines having termini in London, show, for the most part, lower returns; thus the Great Western declared no dividend; the London and North Western dividend was 3¾ per cent. against 5 per cent. last year; the London and South Western 4½ against 4¾; the South Eastern and London and Brighton, the same rates of dividend, viz., 3 and 5 per cent. respectively; Blackwall the same; and the Eastern Counties 2⅜ against 2½ in 1857. Taking the other principal lines we find the East Lancashire paying 1¼ per cent. less; the Great Southern and Western of Ireland ¾ per cent. less; the Manchester Sheffield and Lincolnshire, no dividend against 1 per cent. last year; Lancashire and Yorkshire 3¾ per cent. against 5 per cent. in the first half of 1857; the Lancaster and Carlisle 1 per cent. more, whilst the Midland and the North British pay the same dividends as they did last year.

Now, analysing the accounts of the line railways connected with the metropolis, it appears that the following are the resulting figures:—

Capital ordinary	£63,414,729
„ Preference	14,547,559
„ Debentures, loans, &c.	36,782,992
Total	£114,745,280

Revenue and Expenditure.

Traffic receipts	£4,428,566
Working expenses	1,998,017
Ratio per cent. of working expenses	45·12
Total receipts	4,589,324
Total expenditure...	2,298,228
Ratio per cent. of total expenditure	50·08

Distribution of Receipts.

Total interest paid on loans and guaranteed shares	£1,505,431
Available for dividends	1,063,514
Dividends declared	1,006,130
Average dividend	3¼
Ratio per cent. of preference shares, loans, &c., to ordinary capital	80·94
Ratio per cent. of traffic receipts to capital expended ...	3·95
Ratio per cent. of interest on loans, preference, &c., per cent.	28·44
Ratio per cent. of net profits to ordinary paid-up capital ...	1·67

The interest on loans, preference shares, &c., is exceedingly heavy; but though this is the present average, it can by no means be taken as a fair criterion of the prospects of these important lines which necessarily fluctuate with the condition of trade and the monetary prospects of the country. These interests are also greatly influenced by the price of labour and materials, and the activity or depression of commerce.

The railway interests have, it must be admitted, been rather unfairly dealt with. They have been pressed upon most severely by the State; they are made to contribute in undue proportion to the rates, and are, besides, heavily taxed in other ways. Thus, the South Eastern pays £122,300 per annum in rates and taxes—more than the sum available for the half-yearly dividend. Again, the Post Office authorities do not deal liberally with them. Now, it is not for the permanent advantage of the public that any great interest should be unjustly dealt with; and we believe that the complaints of the railways, with respect to the past course of legislation, are of a character to demand an early inquiry at the hands of Government.

It has been very truly observed, that two giant errors have presided over the waste of railway property and revenue—the early reckless method of construction, and the total absence of anything like guiding principle in the administration of the working. The enormous expenditure on some of the first railways still presses heavily upon their remunerative resources, but it is satisfactory to know that this dear-bought experience is resulting in benefit in the present economy and prudence exercised. While the average cost of all the railways completed up to 1857 has been £39,275 per mile, the lines commenced this year have only cost £14,599 per mile. And in Scotland the general mileage construction has been still further reduced, amounting now to only one-fourth of the former expenditure per mile. If, instead of the reckless competition so frequently exhibited and the useless extension of unprofitable branches, there were more combination and

co-operation, greater benefits would ensue to the shareholders. There is also still room for the adoption of many economical improvements, in the working expenses and advantageous plans for economising cost, securing efficiency, and increasing the existing traffic. A very important improvement for cheapening the working of railways has been adopted on the South Western and other lines, by the introduction of coal-burning engines which consume their own smoke; there is room also for improvement in the amount of non-paying weight in trains, in proportion to the weight of the loads; and, above all, for developing the paying traffic of the general system.

The £24,000,000 spent last year by the public in conveyance may appear large, and is certainly much beyond what could have been anticipated some years ago; but even now the commerce and personal travel is far from being fully expanded. The coal and mineral traffic has yet to be largely developed on many important lines; the general mass of the community have only just begun to appreciate the advantages of easy and economical travelling, and the excursionist system may yet be advantageously extended in many quarters, if properly managed. If the population of the kingdom, of all ranks and ages, at present pay on the average nearly £1 per head per annum as railway fares on themselves and their property, there is no reason why this sum may not be largely extended with the expansion and progress of trade and wealth in the country.

The profits on the whole series of British railways are shown by Captain Galton to have already realised a fairly remunerative average on the gross capital invested. He computes that, while in 1849 the rate of dividend on the ordinary share capital was £1 17*s.* 6*d.* per cent., and in 1850, when a large extent of new lines came into operation, had declined to £1 16*s.* per cent., in 1852 was £2 8*s.* per cent., in 1853 £3 1*s.* per cent., in 1856 £3 8*s.* per cent., and last year it increased to £3 12*s.* per cent. This rate, it is right to presume, would have still further increased, but for the sudden decline in all commercial transactions, and consequent decrease in the passenger traffic, through the panic of last year. It is evident, therefore, that careful, honest and skilful management would soon place and maintain railway property in the satisfactory position which it has every natural aptitude to attain.

THE annexed is condensed from an elaborate report of Captain Galton to the Board of Trade, of the proceedings of the department relative to railways in the United Kingdom for the year, 1857:—

The number of railway bills which came before Parliament in the session of 1857 amounted to 130, and the length of new line proposed to be authorised amounted to 1,470 miles. But of those bills only eighty-two were passed; and the total length of line actually authorised was 663 miles. Of the eighty-two Acts passed in 1857 fifty-three had reference to the construction of works. The length of new line authorised by these fifty-three Acts was as follows, viz., 344 miles in England and Wales, 169 miles in Scotland, and about 150 miles in Ireland. Twenty-eighty Acts authorised new lines and branches in new districts; twenty-six Acts authorised the opening out of a new access to an existing district, or the

supply of additional routes between districts already supplied, and which, therefore, formed competing lines; thirteen Acts authorised one company to use the station of another company, or a small portion of a line adjacent to a station; thirty-five Acts authorised working arrangements; six authorised companies to be permanently united by amalgamation; fifteen Acts authorised companies to carry on some work or occupation not within the provision of their Acts. The lines authorised in England and Wales were chiefly extensions of existing railways, or short lines which will, when opened, form feeders to existing railways.

The total length of line authorised by Parliament down to the end of 1857 amounted to 15,331 miles, but of this 1,504 miles have been abandoned by subsequent local Acts, or by warrants under the authority of a general Act passed in 1847, and consequently there remain 13,827 miles for which the Parliamentary powers have not been repealed: of these 9,019 miles were open at the end of 1857, and 4,808 miles remain to be opened—namely, 3,307 miles in England and Wales, 573 miles in Scotland, and 928 miles in Ireland. 384 miles of new line were opened during 1857, of which 322 were opened in England and Wales, forty-eight in Scotland, and fourteen in Ireland. Out of the 4,808 miles which have not yet been opened the powers with respect to 2,356 miles for the compulsory purchase of land and the completion of works have expired. Upon 234 miles the powers for the compulsory purchase of land have been allowed to expire without having been exercised, increasing the number of miles which it is not probable will ever be made, to 2,590 miles. The total amount of money authorised to be raised by railway companies by shares and loans, to the end of 1857, was 387,051,735*l.*, of which 314,989,826*l.* had been raised, leaving 72,061.909*l.* to be raised. There are no means of ascertaining how much of this sum appertains to the portions of railway for which the Parliamentary powers have expired. Of the 9,116 miles open for traffic on the 31st of December, 1857, 6,777 miles are in England, 1,269 in Scotland, and 1,070 in Ireland; 7,053 miles are constructed on the narrow gauge, 740 miles on the broad gauge, 261 miles on the mixed gauge, and 1,062 miles on the Irish gauge. There are 2,775 miles of single line, of which 1,797 are narrow gauge, 255 broad gauge, 72 mixed gauge, and 651 Irish gauge. The length of new line reported to be in course of construction on the 30th of June, 1857, was 1,004 miles; of these about 230 miles were opened before the end of 1857; and the number of persons employed on them was 44.037, being on the average 43·86 persons per mile. The length of line open for traffic in the United Kingdom on the 30th of June, 1857, was 8,942 miles, and the number of persons employed thereon amounted to 109,660, or 12·26 per mile. The number of stations was 3,121. With regard to the money invested in railways, the report states that the capital raised for the construction of railways on the 31st of December, 1857, amounted to 314,989,626*l.*, respresenting an expenditure of 34,950*l.* per mile of railway open. In making this estimate it must be recollected that the lines reported to be in course of construction amount in length to about one-ninth of the whole length completed and in course of construction, and that some portion of the cost per mile belongs to these lines. Although the cost of railways in the United Kingdom averages 34,950*l.* per mile,—viz., 39,275*l.* in England, 28,225*l.* in Scotland, and 15,664*l.* in Ireland, the average cost of the independent lines of railway for which the Acts have been obtained since 1848, and which are now opened for traffic, has only amounted to 11,823*l.* per mile; of these railways those opened in England have averaged 14,559*l.* per mile; those opened in Scotland 7,243*l.* per mile; and those opened in Ireland 7,303*l.* per mile. Of the total amount

raised 78,360,236*l.* has been raised by loans, 58,061,655*l.* by preference shares, and the remainder, viz., 236,629,590*l.*, by ordinary share capital.

The gross receipts on railways in the United Kingdom amounted in the year 1857 to 24,174,610*l.*; the working expenses amounted to 11,362,066*l.*; the interest on preference shares to 2,826,005*l.*, being at the rate of 4·86 per cent.; the interest on loans to 3,541,451*l.*, or at the rate of 4·52 per cent.; leaving 6,438,088*l.*, being at the rate of 3*l.* 12*s.* per cent., available for dividend on the whole of the ordinary share capital. In 1849 the average rate of dividend on the ordinary share capital of railways was 1*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* per cent.; in 1850, 1*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* per cent; in 1851, 2*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* per cent.; in 1852, 2*l.* 8*s.* per cent.; in 1853, 3*l.* 1*s.* per cent.; in 1854, 3*l.* 8*s.* per cent.; in 1855, 3*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* per cent.; in 1856, 3*l.* 8*s.* per cent.; and in 1857, 3*l.* 12*s.* per cent.

The preferential and loan capitals invested in railways at the end of 1857 amount to 43 per cent. of the whole capital; and the interest which has to be paid upon the preferential and loan capital averages 4·67 per cent. The net receipts on railways give an average interest on the whole capital invested of 4 per cent., but the preferential charges reduce the interest on the ordinary capital to 3·60 per cent.

During the year 1857 6,213,932*l.* of additional capital was invested in railways, being an addition of about 2 per cent. on the capital previously raised. It was not, however, all invested in new lines of railway, for the existing lines which have had no additions to their length for several years have continually increased their capital. Thus upon 29 railways, having an aggregate length of 1,200 miles, the capital increased from 39,000,000*l.* on the 31st of December, 1853, to 43,000,000*l.* on the 31st of December, 1857, or at the rate of above 600*l.* per mile per annum; the proportion which the net receipts bore to the capital invested in these lines increased during the same period from 3·4 per cent. to 4·2 per cent. The traffic on railways has always increased, and so long as the proportion of the net traffic receipts to the capital expended increases in each year it may be assumed that the property is in a sound condition. At present this is the case with the British railways. Leaving out of consideration the preferential charges, the net receipts in England gave a dividend of 3·78 per cent. in 1854, and 4·26 per cent. in 1857; in Scotland the net receipts were 3·36 per cent. on the capital in 1854 and 4·09 per cent. in 1857; and in Ireland the net receipts were 3·42 per cent. on the capital in 1854, and 4·38 per cent. in 1857.

The proportion of the passenger traffic to the whole traffic in England was 44 per cent., in Scotland 36 per cent., and in Ireland nearly 59 per cent. The total number of passengers conveyed on railways in 1857 amounted to 139,008,888, against 129,347,592 conveyed in 1856; the number conveyed per mile of railway open being 15,617, in 1857, against 15,213 in 1856. The receipts from passengers amounted to 10,592,798*l.* in 1857, against 10,153,745*l.* in 1856; the receipts per mile being 1,191*l.* in 1857 and 1,194*l.* in 1856. The receipts per mile for first-class passengers amounted in England to 416*l.*, for second-class to 476*l.*, and for third-class to 442*l.*; in Scotland the receipts per mile for first-class passengers amounted to 204*l.* per mile, for second-class to 146*l.*, and for third-class to 384*l.*; in Ireland the receipts amounted for first-class passengers to 154*l.*, for second-class to 234*l.*, and for third-class to 230*l.* per mile. While the first-class traffic has only increased 3·19 per cent. since 1849, and the second-class traffic has actually diminished 11·4 per cent., the third-class receipts per mile have increased 25 per cent. The receipts on Dutch railways from third-class passengers are more

than one-half of the whole receipts; on British railways the receipts from third-class traffic are one-third the total receipts. In France the receipts from the third-class amount to 43 per cent. of the whole, the second-class being 28 per cent., and the first-class 29 per cent. On the continental railways nearly three-fourths of all the passengers who travel are third-class, the remainder being either first or second-class. In Scotland the third-class passengers are 73 per cent. of the whole number who travel, the remainder being first and second class in nearly equal proportions. The proportions of first-class passengers to the whole number of passengers who travel is from 12½ to 13½ per cent. in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

The receipts from goods, cattle, minerals, parcels, &c., in 1857, amounted to 13,581,812*l.* against 13,011,748*l.* in 1856, which represented 1,524*l.* per mile in 1857, and 1,530*l.* per mile in 1856. Those receipts include 7,781,743*l.* for the conveyance of 25,027,927 tons of merchandise, 3,987,291*l.* for the conveyance of 46,293,983 tons of minerals, 517,358*l.* for the conveyance of 11,047,160 heads of live stock, and 1,295,420*l.* for parcels, &c.

The total receipts from all sources of traffic have amounted in England and Wales to 20,527,748*l.*, or 3,105*l.* per mile, in 1857, against 2,319,217*l.* or 3,120*l.*, in 1856; in Scotland to 2,510,478*l.*, or 2,040 per mile in 1857, against 2,319,217*l.*, or 2,022*l.* per mile, in 1856; and in Ireland to 1,145,384*l.*, or 1,076*l.* per mile, in 1857, against 1,117,965*l.*, or 1,092*l.* per mile, in 1856; the aggregate receipts from all sources of traffic for the whole kingdom having been 24,174,616*l.*, or 2,715*l.* per mile in 1857, against 23,165,493*l.*, or 2,724*l.* per mile, in 1856.

The working expenses of railways have increased in England and Wales from 1,352*l.* per mile in 1854 to 1,564*l.* in 1857; but they have decreased in Scotland from 961*l.* in 1854 to 941*l.* in 1857; and in Ireland from 465*l.* in 1854 to 464*l.* in 1857. The proportion which the working expenses have borne to the receipts has been 48 per cent. in England and Wales, as compared with 49 per cent. in 1856; 44 per cent. in Scotland, as compared with 47 per cent. in 1856; and 38 per cent. in Ireland, as compared with 39 per cent. in 1856; the general average having been 47 per cent. upon the gross receipts both in 1856 and in 1857. The maintenance of way absorbs 15 per cent. of the expenditure; the locomotive expenses, including repairs of rolling stock, 38 per cent.; traffic charges, 26 per cent.; police, watchmen, compensation, &c., 13 per cent.; and rates and Government duty, 7 per cent. The cost of coal and coke in England averages 2·9*d.* per mile run by engines, in Scotland 2·58*d.* per mile, and in Ireland 3·94*d.* per mile run; the general average being 2·67*d.* per mile. A very important improvement for cheapening the working of railways is being effected by the introduction of coal burning engines which consume their own smoke. The London and South Western engines, under Mr. Beattie have been successful, and are stated to average a consumption of 18lbs. of coal per mile; and the average cost of fuel on that railway has been 2·69*d.*, per mile, and 104 miles have been run per ton of coal and coke, when on other railways similarly situated the cost has 3*d.* and 3½*d.* per mile; and from 80 to 92 miles only have been run per ton of coke. There is room for improvement in the amount of non-paying weight in trains, in proportion to the weight of the loads. An ordinary first-class carriage gives, if full, an average probably of 700lbs. dead weight per passenger, and an ordinary third-class carriage gives nearly 300lbs. dead weight per passenger.

With regard to the local rates and taxes on railways in England, they amount to 7·72 per cent. of the dividend on ordinary share capital, and

the passenger duty to 5·99 per cent., making 13·71 per cent., and of the dividend on the total share capital 9·61 per cent. In Scotland the rates and taxes amount to 5·97 per cent., and the passenger duty to 4·41 per cent. of the dividend on the ordinary share capital, or 6·87 per cent. of the dividend on the total share capital. In Ireland the rates and taxes amount to 5·29 per cent. of the dividend on the ordinary share capital, and 4·27 per cent, on the total share capital. Passenger duty is not charged on Irish railways. The most oppressive part of the burden of local taxation is the litigation to which the parish rates give rise. Besides which the railway companies themselves are in many cases the largest ratepayers in the parishes; and, consequently, if they gain their cause they have to contribute towards the expense of the contest by an increased rate.

The average receipts per train mile in England are 64·8*d.* for passengers, 76·6*d.* for goods, and 70·3*d.* the general average; the expenditure per train mile is 32·9*d.*, and the working expenses 48 per cent. of the receipts. In Scotland the receipts per train mile are 62·6*d.* for passengers, 67*d.* for goods, and 65*d.* the average; the expenditure per train mile being 28·3*d.*, and of the receipts 44 per cent. In Ireland the receipts per train mile average for passengers 54·5*d.*, for goods 82·6*d.*, and general average 60·7*d.* The expenditure per train mile being 25*d.* and 38 per cent. of the gross receipts.

The average receipt per passenger is 18·29*d.* in England, 14·68*d.* in Scotland, and 18·74*d.* in Ireland. The receipts for goods traffic on railways, in 1857, averaged 74*d.* per ton, for minerals 20*d.* per ton, and for cattle and sheep 11*d.* per head. It is notorious that in many cases the rates received, while they give an apparently large gross receipt, tell seriously against the expenditure of the companies. The report states that it is worth considering how far traffic, which has to be sought at a great cost, repays the trouble of seeking it; for the business of carrying is just as much a trade as any other business, and is subject to the same laws, and railway management can only be successfully carried on by knowing accurately the cost of every service to be rendered, and not performing any service at a loss.

It thus appears that careful and honest management alone will place and maintain railway property in a satisfactory position. But the property is so vast, and the management so complicated, that it is almost impossible for shareholders to examine for themselves the details of the several transactions, even if they possessed the power, which they do not, and hence the surest incentive to good management is wanting,—viz., the rigid supervision of persons interested in the concern. In the absence of this incentive, publicity of accounts seems to be the best safeguard. The accounts should show in a detailed manner the cost of work done, the remuneration received for it, and the condition of the means for carrying on the business. The correctness of the accounts should be certified by an efficient audit, not only of the accounts, but of the several transactions of the company, established in the interests of the shareholders; a direct responsibility being placed on those to whom the management of the lines is confided.

The following is the report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the Causes of Accidents on Railways, and into the possibility of removing any such causes by further legislation:—

"That your committee has heard much evidence upon the subject-matter of inquiry brought before it; that the evidence has been chiefly given by officers of the Board of Trade, by eminent engineers, and by directors and other officials of railway companies.

"That it appears to your committee, from that evidence, that the causes of accidents on railways may be classified under the three following heads:—Inattention of servants; defective materials, either in the works or rolling stock, and excessive speed.

"That it appears to your committee that the strict personal supervision which alone can check the carelessness of the men employed on the lines, and detect the insufficiency of the material used on them, can best be obtained by the attention of the companies themselves, and that the very serious losses they incur by any accident ought to render it sufficiently their interest to pay minute attention to these points; but cases having occurred when these questions have been neglected by railway companies, your committee is of opinion, that the Board of Trade should be invested with the fullest powers to investigate and report to Parliament upon any accidents which may occur on railways.

"That your committee is of opinion that a rate of speed considerably in excess of what is considered safe, in the opinion of the great majority of the witnesses examined, is sometimes attained on many of the lines.

"That the evidence taken further tends to show that such excessive speed has arisen, not so much from the average speed required, as advertised by the railway time tables, as from the want of strict punctuality in the time of the departure and arrival of trains from each station, which leads to an excess of speed for the purpose of endeavouring to make up time lost. That your committee, impressed with the many difficulties and complications connected with this part of the subject, and also with the inexpediency of relieving railway companies from the responsibility which now devolves on them, is not prepared to recommend any direct legislative interference by the House upon the question of the extreme speed at which railway trains may be permitted to travel. But your committee is of opinion that the perfect regularity in the time of the departure from and arrival at each station by the trains, which would appear to be a material element of safety in railway travelling, may be attained by legislative interference, to the extent of enacting that, except under exceptional circumstances, the public should have some means of obtaining prompt and cheap redress in the recovery of penalties in every case of want of punctuality in the departure and arrival of trains at every station, thereby rendering it imperative upon railway companies not to advertise a rate of travelling which they cannot always maintain with undeviating punctuality.

"That your committee is of opinion that it should be made imperative on railway companies to advertise a sufficient time beforehand the exact hour of departure and arrival of trains at each station.

"That your committee is also of opinion that it should be imperative on every railway company to establish a means of communication between guards and engine drivers.

"That your committee has received much evidence with reference to the advisability of enforcing a system of telegraphic communication, and the utility of enacting that trains should not be despatched without having ascertained by such communication that the line was clear.

"That your committee is not prepared to define the distance at which such telegraphic stations should be placed, but it is of opinion that a recourse to this system would be a most effective means for the prevention of railway accidents, the largest proportion of which arise from collisions.

"That with respect to day and night signals, breaks, and other precautions, your committee is of opinion, from the evidence which it has heard, that such details are better left to the management of the railway boards.

"That your committee is therefore of opinion that it is incumbent on the Board of Trade to apply to Parliament for such further powers as may enable that department to carry out the above recommendations, which, in the opinion of your committee, would tend greatly to diminish the number of railway accidents.

"June 25, 1858."

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN.—The dividend declared by this company was at the rate of 3¾ per cent. per annum for the half-year, and leaving a balance of 5,925*l.* The report of the directors stated that the receipts for passengers, parcels, and mails amounted for the past half-year to 682,406*l.*, and for the corresponding half of 1857 to 769,544*l.*, showing a decrease of 87,138*l.* The receipts for merchandise, &c., amounted to 697,593*l.* against 786,975*l.*, showing a decrease of 89,382*l.* The total receipts during the half-year amounted to 1,379,999*l.* against 1,556,519*l.* for the corresponding half of 1857, showing a decrease of 176,520*l.* The working expenses amounted to 619,043*l.* against 631,847*l.*, in the same half of 1857, showing a decrease of 12,804*l.* The directors attribute the decrease in the receipts to three causes,—viz., the depression of trade; the absence of any special source of income in substitution for the extra receipts in May and June, 1857, arising from the Manchester Exhibition; and, lastly, the continued and aggravated competition of the Great Northern and Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire. The loss from this last cause cannot be estimated at less than 75,000*l.*, irrespective of the losses which neighbouring companies have suffered by the same competition. The net proceeds are 407,357*l.* as against 572,332*l.* in the same half of 1857; the balance brought from last account amounted to 43,347*l.* against 8,040*l.* in 1857, and the available balance for the past half-year amounts to 450,704*l.* against 580,373*l.* at the corresponding half of 1857, allowing 444,778*l.* for dividend against 572,596*l.* last year, leaving a balance for the next account of 5,925*l.* against 7,776*l.* carried over from the half year ending June, 1857. The capital account shows that 34,784,432*l.* had been received, upon the whole of which interest and dividend is charged to revenue, and 34,160,658*l.* expended, including 454,194*l.* during the past half-year, leaving a balance of 623,773*l.* The amount expended on the company's lines, carrying stock and so forth is 28,475,238*l.*, on lines in which the company have an interest 5,428,835*l.* and in improvement of road 256,585*l.*, transferred by resolution of general meeting to capital account, making the total expenditure 34,160,658*l.* It appears the expenditure on capital account from January, 1850, to the 30th of June, 1858, amounted to 5,968,628*l.* The total cost of the working stock, including moveable machinery, tools, &c., is 3,065,567*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending the 30th of June last shows that 1,448,490*l.* had been received, including 11,072*l.* for cash balances, 19,689*l.* for rents, 422*l.* transfer fees, 962*l.* from Huddersfield Canal, and 60,845*l.* estimated dividends from lines in which the company have an interest; and that 619,043*l.* had been expended in working charges, 29,025*l.* in rates and taxes, 21,278*l.* passenger duty, 240,420*l.* interest on loans, 4,370*l.* chief rents, 2,500*l.* expenses of Peterborough station, 7,099*l.* Parliamentary and legal expenses, 5,368*l.* Preston and Wyre deficiency, 18,299*l.* Buckinghamshire rent, 27,131*l.* North Union guarantee, 16,426*l.* Shropshire Union deficiency, 455*l.* Matlock deficiency, 900*l.* West London, 1,366*l.* canal leases deficiency, 7,066*l.* Stour Valley dividend, 1,939*l.* Stockport, Disley and Whaley-bridge moiety of traffic, 2,111*l.* Haydon-square depôt, and 28,333*l.* for renewal of road, leaving a balance of 407,357*l.* To this is added 43,347*l.*, the balance from the preceding half-year, making a disposable sum of 450,704*l.*

GREAT WESTERN.—In accordance with the recommendation contained in the annexed report, there was no dividend declared for the past half-year. That report says:—The number of miles of railway opened in 1857 was 467, and in 1858, 466. The gross receipts for the half-year ending June 30, 1858, amounted to 744,446*l.*, as against 768,954*l.* for the half-year ending June 30, 1857. The total expenditure for the half-year was 320,830*l.*; for the corresponding half-year in 1857

349,257*l.* The balance of net revenue in one period was 423,616*l.*; in the other 419,697*l.* It will, however, be seen from the foregoing summary, that although the revenues of the Great Western lines, under such exceptional circumstances, have been diminished from causes beyond control, the directors have succeeded in effecting a more than commensurate saving in the working expenses of those lines, amounting to no less a sum than 28,427*l.* in one half-year. The falling off in the aggregate receipts upon the two Shrewsbury lines alone, within the same period, has been 18,785*l.*, while the saving in working expenses (omitting for the purposes of a just comparison the renewal of five miles of railway, which did not apply to the former period) has been only 6,706*l.* It must be remarked that one distinguishing feature in the loss upon those lines has been the active competition which has been in operation between the London and North-Western and the Great Northern and Sheffield Companies. It has most injuriously affected the receipts of the Shrewsbury lines by diverting some of the northern traffic to other routes at ruinously low fares, as well as by the necessity of submitting to a reduction of charges upon other traffic for a time, in order to protect those lines from a still further loss. Under a firm conviction of the prudence of such a course, the directors have desired to recommend the proprietors to refrain upon this occasion from declaring any dividend upon the consolidated stock. They believe that the reservation of a considerable balance, after defraying every engagement, will be more calculated to strengthen the financial position of the credit of the company, with a view to obtain reductions in the rate of interest upon loans, than paying a dividend at the present moment and carrying forward a smaller balance.

Great Northern.—The dividend declared for the half-year was at the rate of 3*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per annum. The report stated that the expenditure on capital during the half-year amounted to 61,789*l.*, and the total sum expended to 11,360,445*l.*, leaving a balance unexpended of 83,958*l.* The gross receipts for the half-year ending the 30th of June on revenue account were 587,627*l.*, against 577,631*l.* at the corresponding period in 1857, showing an increase of 9,396*l.* The total expenditure for the half-year was 327,193*l.*, against 296,955*l.* for the corresponding period of 1857, showing an increase in the expenditure of 30,238*l.* The balance available after paying working expenses is 259,834*l.* To this is added a balance of 13,968*l.*, including 4,248*l.* balance of the "Redpath account," making the total net revenue 272,802*l.* The amount at the corresponding period of 1857 was 289,076*l.*, showing a decrease of 16,274*l.* Of the above sum of 272,802*l.*, the rents and fixed charges absorb 107,499*l.*, the preference dividends require 83,983*l.* leaving the net balance 81,320*l.* This amount will yield a dividend at the rate of 3*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per cent. per annum upon the original stock; and 3*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* towards 6 per cent. for the year to the holders of B stock. The general traffic of the Great Northern Company was for several months subject to most severe competition, and the directors made several ineffectual attempts to put an end to the very low rates which prevailed between London and Lancashire. On the 7th of April last they and the Manchester and Sheffield directors offered to adopt much higher rates than were then current between London and Manchester and other places, and made a public announcement to that effect; but they declined to restore them to the former high scale charged by the London and North Western. Their offer having been refused by the London and North Western, the fares and rates remained very low until the 16th of June, when it was intimated to your directors that if they would advertise the fares which they had proposed on the 7th of April the London and North Western would follow them. This was immediately done, and on the 21st of June the fares and rates, proposed by the Great Northern Company in April for Liverpool and Manchester, were adopted by both routes, and remain so up to this time. Under the agreement with the Manchester and Sheffield Company they are entitled to receive, out of the earnings arising from through traffic, such a sum as would with their other receipts make up a gross sum of 10,000*l.* per week, subject to being repaid when their gross receipts exceed 11,000*l.* per week. The Great Northern have accordingly advanced 25,000*l.* on account to the Manchester and Sheffield Company, in respect of the earnings for the year 1858.

LONDON BRIGHTON AND SOUTH COAST.—The dividend paid by this Company was 2½ per cent. for the half-year, and a balance of 553*l.* carried forward. The report stated that the amount of capital raised to the 30th of June last was 7,858,815*l.*, and that it consists of 1,806,835*l.* of mortgage debt, 198,700*l.* debenture stock, 1,234,726*l.* preference capital, and 4,618,554*l.* consolidated stock. The amount of the perpetual four per cent. debenture stock which has already been taken up is 210,800*l.*, which the directors have no doubt will be considerably increased as the existing debentures fall due. The gross revenue for the half-year has been 344,569*l.*, showing a decrease of 4,655*l.* as compared with the corresponding half-year of 1857; but an increase of 1,891*l.* when compared with the same period of 1856. The total traffic receipts (excluding cartage) amounted for the half-year ending 30th of June to 333,326*l.*, and for the corresponding half of 1857 to 337,782*l.* The working expenses (excluding cartage) amounted to 145,856*l.*, against 154,512*l.* at the corresponding period of 1857, showing a decrease in the receipts of 4,456*l.*, and in the expenses of 8,656*l.* The total expenses (including cartage) amounted to 152,847*l.*, against 161,642*l.* The renewals and additions amounted to 12,274*l.*, against 15,611*l.* The working expenses averaged 2*s.* 11¾*d.* per train mile, against 3*s.* 2¾*d.* per train mile in the same half of 1857; the total working expenses during both periods amounted to 43¾ per cent. of the traffic receipts. Owing to measures of economy introduced in the working the available balance is equal to that of the corresponding periods of 1856 and 1857. The capital account shows that the company have been authorised to raise 8,755,000*l.*, of which the sum 7,858,815*l.* has been raised, leaving powers to raise 896,184*l.* It appears that the unexpended capital of the company now amounts to 921,022*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending 30th June shows that the gross revenue amounted to 344,569*l.*, and the balance from the preceding half-year 3,742*l.*, making together 348,312*l.* From this is deducted 127,976*l.* for working expenses and renewals, 13,764*l.* for rates and taxes, 10,673*l.* for Government duty, and 434*l.* toll to the South Eastern Company, 195,464*l.*

SOUTH EASTERN.—The dividend declared was 9*s.* per share, or at the rate of 3*l.* per cent. per annum, carrying forward 1,154*l.* The report stated that the gross receipts on revenue account during the half-year ending the 31st of July last amounted to 495,102*l.* (including 20,341*l.* from steam-boat traffic), being a decrease of 7,421*l.* as compared with the corresponding half of 1857. The ordinary working expenses during the half-year amounted to 190,620*l.* (being a decrease of 6,389*l.* on the corresponding period of 1857); the rates, taxes, tolls and Government duty to 34,031*l.*; and the working of the steam-packet service to 14,970*l.* After providing for the fixed charges in respect of rents, interest, annuities, preference dividends, &c., there remains a net balance of 112,660*l.* available for dividend on the ordinary consolidated stock of the company. An analysis of the receipts and expenditure shows that the gross receipts for the past half-year amounted to 495,102*l.* against 502,523*l.* at the same period in 1857, showing a decrease of 7,421*l.*; the working expenses and other deductions amounted to 257,197*l.* against 258,556*l*, showing a decrease of 1,359*l.* in the expenses, and and leaving the net receipts for the half year 237,904*l.* against 243,966*l.* in the corresponding half of 1857, and showing a decrease of 6,061*l.* in the net receipts for the half-year. The passenger traffic account showed that 4,718,535 passengers were conveyed over the line during the half-year against 4,532,538 at the corresponding period of 1857, showing a total increase of 185,997 passengers. Of these 120,643 were third-class, 50,345 second-class, and 15,009 first-class passengers. The total receipts for passengers amounted to 327,938*l.*, against 333,096*l.* in the corresponding half of 1857, showing a decrease of 5,158*l.* The decrease in the receipts of first-class passengers amounted to 3,209*l.*, and in those of second-class to 5,813*l.*, making a decrease of 9,022*l.*; but from this is deducted 3,864*l.*, the increase from third-class passengers, leaving the actual decrease as above, 5,158*l.* The total receipts for first-class passengers amounted to 132,372*l.*, for second-class to 104,727*l.*, and for third-class passengers to 90,838*l.* The report goes on to state that "it will be observed from this summary that there has been a decrease in the total receipts, notwithstanding the increased number of passengers of each class conveyed

upon the railway during the half-year. This decrease is accounted for by the falling off in continental passengers, the receipts for London, Dover and Folkestone traffic being less by 9,367*l.* than in the corresponding period of last half-year; and the receipts by the company's steamers between Dover and Calais, and Folkestone and Boulogne, being less by 5,769*l.* during the same period. This falling off in the continental traffic is attributable partly to the commercial depression of the past season, and partly to the increased stringency with which the French passport regulations were enforced, about the beginning of the present year. Measures have, however, been recently adopted, both by the English and French Governments, calculated greatly to facilitate the intercourse between the two countries.

Eastern Counties.—The dividend declared by this company was 1*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* per cent. for the half-year, being at the rate of 2*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per annum, and 6,292*l.* was carried to the next account. The report showed by a comparative statement that the receipts for the half-year ending June 30, 1858, amounted to 645,516*l.*, ending June 30, 1857, to 654,675*l.*; ending June 30, 1856, to 628,939*l.*; ending June 30, 1855, to 596,608*l.*; and for the half-year ending June 30, 1854, to 560,494*l.*; showing an increase of 85,022*l.* in the receipts of the past half-year as compared with those of the corresponding period of 1854. The working expenses amounted to 295,639*l.* (or 45*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* per cent.) to 300,098*l.*, to 314,138*l.*, to 283,445*l.*, and to 263,059*l.* respectively; showing an increase in the expenses of 32,280*l.* as compared with the corresponding half of 1854, and in the net receipts of 52,742*l.* With respect to dividend, the result of the undertakings as regards the company for the last year was as follows:—Gross receipts due to Eastern Counties, 513,366*l.*; expenses, 295,639*l.*; leaving 217,727*l.* Out of this is deducted 141,417*l.*, interest on guarantees and loans, the balance being 76,310*l.* To this sum is added 7,256*l.* from the previous half-year, making 83,566*l.*, less 8,000*l.* deducted on account of deferred permanent way account, leaving 75,566*l.* available for dividend. The cost of keeping up the permanent way during the past half-year amounted to 52,730*l.* being at the rate of 233*l.* 12*s.* per mile per annum of double line, all charged to revenue. The balance at the debit of "deferred permanent way renewal account" was at 1st of January last 77,761*l.*, since which 894*l.* has been added for the renewal of a bridge over the Lea river. The directors have appropriated 8,000*l.* out of the revenue of the past half-year towards the extinction of this debt, which is now reduced to 70,655*l.* In conclusion, the directors state that although there has been a small diminution in the receipts, there has been an equivalent reduction in the working expenses, and that the result cannot be otherwise than satisfactory to the proprietors, as the amount proposed to be paid for dividend is nearly the same as that paid in the corresponding half-year of 1857. The favourable condition of the company as regards the very small expenditure on capital account is another feature which they advert to. They remark that there is every reason to congratulate the proprietors on the sound condition of their property, and its freedom from those disturbing causes which have affected other districts. The total length of line worked by the company is stated to be 632½ miles. The capital account shows that 11,242,062*l.* had been received, and 11,016,054*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 226,006*l.* The revenue account shows that 640,504*l.* had been received, including 24,493*l.* from the East Anglian, and 341,298*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 299,205*l.*, of which the Eastern Counties Company takes 5-7ths, or 213,718*l.*; the Eastern Union 1-7th, or 42,744*l.*; and the Norfolk 1-7th, or 42,744*l.*

London and South Western.—The dividend of this company was at the rate of 4*l.* 5*s.* per cent. per annum for the half-year, leaving a balance of 4,823*l.* The report stated that the net revenue for the six months ending June 30, after deducting interest on loans and all other preferential charges amounted to 150,573*l.* To this is added 7,235*l.*, the surplus at December 31st, 1857, making 157,808*l.* available for dividend. The decrease in the gross revenue for the half-year, as compared with the corresponding period in 1857, amounts to 14,648*l.*, in the working expenses to 1,682*l.*, and in the net revenue to 13,514*l.* The increase in the length of railway in operation is 10 miles, and in the miles run by the trains 11,494. The prolonged depression in trade has continued to exercise an unfavour-

able influence on the traffic of the last half-year, but the receipts of this company will bear a favourable comparison with those of other metropolitan lines. The total paid-up capital of the company in the consolidated stock at the present time is 7,713,650*l.*; of preferential stocks, 185,676*l.*; and of ordinary debenture debt, 2,850,176*l.* The amount raised on the perpetual 4*l.* per cent. stock is 47,862*l.* The amount of consolidated stock remaining unissued is 515,799*l.* The revenue account for the half-year shows that 393,854*l.* had been received and 188,397*l.*, or 49·31 per cent., expended, including 24,542*l.*, or 6·42 per cent., for Government duty, rates, and taxes, leaving a balance of net revenue of 205,456*l.*

London and Blackwall.—The dividend declared was 2*s.* 9*d.* per share. The report stated that the balance to the credit of revenue for the half-year ending the 30th of June last amounted to 22,425*l.* Deducting from this sum interest on debentures and loans, 7,248*l.*, there remains 15,177*l.* available for dividend. The capital account shows that 1,683,690*l.* had been received and 1,782,068*l.* expended, leaving a balance against the company of 98,378*l.* The revenue account for the half-year showed that 38,982*l.* had been received, including 3,003*l.* from the Bow line, 5,430*l.* from the North London line, 3,531*l.* from the Tilbury line, and 2,403*l.* from the Eastern Counties line. The expenditure, including 2,616*l.* for taxation, amounted to 16,794*l.*, or 44·10 per cent., leaving a balance, with 237*l.* from last account, of 22,425*l.*

North London.—The dividend of this company was at the rate of 5*l.* per cent. per annum, being a balance of 883*l.* The report stated that the receipts for the half-year show an increase of 2,266*l.*, and the expenditure a decrease of 1,457*l.* as compared with the corresponding half of 1857. The result of the half-year's transactions is that a net balance of 23,838*l.* remains against 20,762*l.* last year. The capital account shows that 1,329,026*l.* had been received and expended, leaving a balance of 2,866*l.* due to revenue. The revenue account for the half-year ending 30th June last shows that 64,819*l.* had been received, and 33,750*l.* expended, including 5,494*l.* toll to Blackwall company, 2,622*l.* taxation, and 1,604*l.* dock and wharf charges, leaving, with 231*l.* from the last account, a balance of 31,300*l.*

Birkenhead, Lancashire, and Cheshire.—This company declared a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 2*l.* per cent. per annum, leaving a balance of 1,001*l.* The report of the directors stated that the amount of consolidated and preference stocks on which dividend is payable is 1,942,030*l.*, and of loans on debentures 438,074*l.*, total 2,380,104*l.* The expenditure on capital account during the past half-year amounted to 10,350*l.* The loan account has been increased by 18,978*l.* during the half-year, at an average rate of 4½ per cent. per annum. Out of the 30,000*l.* authorised to be raised by the vote of the proprietors at the last half-yearly meeting, 9,955*l.* has been repaid to revenue and 10,350*l.* expended on capital account, leaving 9,694*l.* unexpended. There appears to the directors no reason to doubt that the great works which have, for so many years, remained in abeyance, to the serious detriment and loss of the company, will now be proceeded with, and completed in accordance with the provisions of the Acts of the last session. From the diminution of traffic in all parts of the kingdom as well as from the violent railway competition, which, to a serious extent, disturbed the ordinary business of the district, a falling off has occurred in the income of the company, and in order to retain the traffic belonging to the line it has been necessary to adopt reduced rates at a largely increased expenditure. The Warrington and Stockport Railway Company have, under the provisions of their Act of 1853, run passenger trains between Walton Junction and Chester since the 1st of March last. The tolls for traffic carried in their trains amount to only 243*l.* for a period of four months, a sum altogether inadequate to defray the additional cost of maintenance, extra signalmen and other expenses necessitated by their use of the line. The revenue account for the half-year ending the 30th of June showed that 68,741*l.* had been received and 38,253*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 30,488*l.*

Blackburn.—The directors state in their report that they now present their

23rd report, which is the last they will have to lay before the shareholders as an independent company. The agreement, sanctioned by the unanimous vote of the general meeting held on the 7th of December last, for vesting the undertaking in the Lancashire and Yorkshire and East Lancashire Railway Companies, was confirmed by Parliament in the last session, and takes effect from 31st December last. It is therefore unnecessary to lay before the proprietors any statement of income and expenditure on account of the working of the line during that period. Pursuant to the provisions of the Amalgamation Act, the purchasing companies will have to pay dividends after the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and 1 per cent. per annum for the current year on the ordinary shares, in this company from the 31st of December last.

BLYTH AND TYNE.—This company declared a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum. The report stated that the gross income for the half-year amounts to 32,810*l.*, which, after deducting working expenses, interest on debentures, way and other charges, leaves, as the net earnings of the half-year, 10,933*l.*, after paying the dividend, there will remain a balance of 1,557*l.*, which, added to the balance of last half-year, amounts to 4,570*l.* for contingencies.

BOSTON, SLEAFORD AND MIDLAND.—The dividend declared was 2*s.* 6*d.* per share. The report stated that, notwithstanding the general depression of trade, the traffic returns of their line between Barkston Junction and Sleaford for the last six months bore satisfactory comparison with those of the preceding half-year. They were repectively 3,392*l.* and 2,761*l.*, showing an increase of 631*l.* on the half-year.

BRADFORD, WAKEFIELD AND LEEDS.—The dividend declared by this company was at the rate of 4¼ per cent. per annum, and leaving a balance of 42*l.* The report stated that the expenditure on capital account to the 30th of June last amounted to 221,695*l.* The revenue account shows that the actual net earnings of the railway for the three months ending the 30th of June last were 2,691*l.*, the interest on loans 976*l.*, leaving 1,715*l.* for dividend. The contest between the Great Northern and the London and North Western Company had deprived them of nearly the whole of the passenger traffic between the West Riding and London.

BRISTOL AND EXETER.—There was a dividend declared by this company at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, leaving to be carried forward a balance of 3,358*l.* The report stated that the consolidated stock on the 30th of June, 1858, amounted to 2,020,909*l.*, and on the 31st of December last to 1,998,449*l.*, being an increase of 22,460*l.* The preference stock on the 30th of June was 759,144*l.*, and on the 31st of December last 765,253*l.*, showing a decrease of 6,109*l.* On the 30th of June, 1858, the debentures were 1,006,110*l.*, and on the 31st of December, 1857, 959,485*l.*, being an increase of 46,625*l.* Of the total receipts a sum of 85,305*l.* remains unexpended. The total amount received during the half-year on account of perpetual preference 4 per cent. shares and stock is 16,350*l.*, but, as the amount of 22,460*l.* is transferred therefrom to the consolidated stock of the company, the amount of capital entitled to the preferential dividend of 4 per cent. is proportionately reduced. The average rate of interest on the total preferential debt is reduced to 4·18 per cent. A sum of 14,036*l.* has been expended on capital account during the past half-year; of this amount 4,363*l.* has been paid in completion of purchases of land; 5,763*l.* for new works to the main line. All renewals or replacements have been charged to revenue. The gross traffic receipts for the half-year ending the 30th of June last have been 152,086*l.*, which is 5,106*l.* less than in the corresponding half of the year 1857. The working expenses amounted to 76,615*l.*, being a decrease of 4,835*l.* as compared with the corresponding half of 1857. This amount of working expenses is equal to 49·52 per cent. on the total gross receipts, or 612*l.* per mile for 125 miles worked during the half-year, and shews a decrease of expenses of 1·28 per cent., or 38*l.* per mile, as compared with the corresponding half-year of 1857. The balance of the revenue account, including 10,041 brought forward from the previous half-year, is 53,920*l.* The capital account showed that 3,786,163*l.* had been

received, and 3,249,890*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 536,272*l.* invested in the shares of other companies, and including 85,305*l.* in cash.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.—The usual dividend was declared. The report stated that the rent for the half-year ending the 31st of December, 1857, amounting to 24,900*l.*, had been received from the London and North Western Company. This sum, added to the balance from the last account, amounted to 26,281*l.* The payments during the half-year had been for arrears of dividends 182*l.*, and on last dividend 24,210*l.*, leaving a balance of 1,889*l.*

EASTERN UNION.—The dividends declared were 12*s.* per share on the A, and 8*s.* on the B stock, clear of income-tax. The report stated that the traffic receipts of the associated companies for the past half-year are stated to be 640,540*l.*, as compared with 648,316*l.*, the receipts for the corresponding half of 1857; and the half-yearly proportions of traffic which have been apportioned by the Eastern Counties Company as belonging to this company since December, 1853, have been as follows:—For the half-year ending June 30, 1854, 38,315*l.*; ending December 31, 1854, 43,233*l.*; ending June 30, 1855, 39,948*l.*; ending December 31, 1855, 45,031*l.*; ending June 30, 1856, 41,219*l.*; December 31, 1856, 49,075*l.*; June 30, 1857, 42,925*l.*; December 31, 1857, 47,118*l.*; and ending June 30, 1858, 42,743*l.*; but the directors of the Eastern Union Company claim much larger sums. The capital account showed that 3,175,806*l.* had been received, and 3,152,339*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 23,467*l.* at bankers.

EAST KENT.—This line not being completed no dividend has been declared. The report stated that the traffic receipts between Strood and Faversham, after deducting proportion due to the South Eastern Railway Company, and the omnibuses between Faversham and Canterbury, amounted for six days ending January the 30th, to 211*l.*, for the month of February to 725*l.*, of March to 713*l.*, of April to 1,449*l.*, of May to 1,309*l.*, of June to 1,807*l.*; total, 6,215*l.* Looking to the above return, and the usual increase in railway traffic, the directors consider that the local traffic alone, even before the line is completed to Canterbury and Dover, will be very considerable, more especially when the traffic from Sheerness is brought upon it, which they believe will be the case in a few months. The capital account shows that 720,617*l.* had been received, and 729,253*l.* expended, leaving a balance against the company of 8,636*l.*

EXETER AND CREDITON.—There was no dividend declared by this company. The report stated that the receipts on capital account amounted to 113,300*l.*, and the expenditure to 112,323*l.*, leaving a balance of 977*l.* The gross revenue for the half-year ending the 30th of June last amounted to 4,288*l.*, and the working and other expenses to 2,927*l.*, leaving a balance of 1,361*l.*, which was absorbed in paying the preference shareholders.

FURNESS.—The dividend declared was at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum. The report stated that the depression of trade, especially in iron, consequent upon the stoppage of railway enterprises in America and India, had seriously affected the commercial prosperity of the Furness district, so that the traffic returns, which amounted to 27,846*l.* for the last half-year, were not so favourable as they had been during some previous half-years; but the revival of trade might be anticipated before the lapse of any lengthened period. The directors were able to recommend a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending the 30th of June last. There had been also a reduction in the working expenses. The expenditure on capital account for the half-year amounted to 19,492*l.*, which included 6,000*l.* for calls on the shares in the Coniston Railway held by the company. A further sum of 4,000*l.* remained to be paid on these shares.

HEREFORD, ROSS AND GLOUCESTER.—This company declared a dividend of 3*s.* per share. The report showed a falling off in the traffic returns of 160*l.* for the past half-year, as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The gross

traffic of the half-year amounted to 11,447*l.*, from which the debenture interest has been deducted, as usual, and paid as a first charge, leaving 9,428*l.* for appropriation between the two companies, the Great Western Company taking 60 per cent., or 5,657*l.*, and the Hereford, Ross and Gloucester Company 40 per cent., or 3,771*l.* After making all payments and providing for all the liabilities of the half-year, there remains 1,621*l.*, which they recommended for division among the shareholders. The capital account showed that 10,102*l.* had been received on debentures during the half-year. The general revenue account stated that 731*l.*, half-year's interest on preference shares, and 819*l.* half-year's interest on contractor's debt, had been paid.

Lancashire and Yorkshire.—The dividend of this company was at the rate of 3¾ per cent. per annum for the half-year, free of income-tax, with 4,245*l.* carried to next account. The report stated that the total amount of share and mortgage capital chargeable on revenue for the half-ending the 30th of June last, excluding leased lines, was 13,701,614*l.*, of which 9,533,244*l.* consisted of ordinary capital, 794,040*l.* guaranteed 6 per cent. capital, 3,337,864*l.* loans, and 36,466*l.* paid in advance of calls. The expenditure on capital account during the half-year had been 63,664*l.*, of which 12,470*l.* was for working stock, 15,940*l.* on the main line, and 26,751*l.* on the Liverpool and Bury line. The receipts on revenue account amounted to 532,918*l.*, against 581,743*l.* at the corresponding period of last year; and the expenses amounted to 227,279*l.*, against 229,157*l.* at the corresponding period of 857, showing a decrease in the receipts of 48,825*l.*, and in the expenses of 1,878*l.* The balance of net revenue applicable to the payment of dividends on the ordinary stock of the company amounts to 182,993*l.*

Leeds, Bradford and Halifax.—This company declared a dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, and carried over 2,112*l.* The report stated that the total receipts on capital account to 30th of June last had been 563,237*l.*, of which 41,081*l.* was received in the half-year. The expenditure for the half-year amounted to 24,147*l.*, making the total expenditure on capital account 561,685*l.*, and leaving a balance of 1,552*l.* The revenue account for the half-year shows that 15,887*l.* had been received; and, after deducting the expenses, there remained a balance of 13,120*l.* To this was added 1,856*l.*, making the total 14,977*l.* Of this the interest would absorb 4,495*l.*, and the proposed dividend on 18,000 original shares at 19*l.* per share, and on 2,000 Ardsley branch shares at 15*l.* per share, at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, 8,370*l.*, leaving a balance of 2,112*l.*

Lancaster and Preston.—The dividend declared by this company was 2*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* per share, being equivalent to 11 per cent. per annum with income tax, or 10¾ per cent. free of the tax. The report stated that the revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of July showed that 36,314*l.* had been received and 859*l.* expended, including 642*l.* for income-tax, leaving 35,454*l.*, of which the proposed dividends will absorb 35,270*l.* and the mortgage interest 166*l.*, leaving a balance of 18*l.* The total capital entitled to dividend amounts to 670,462*l.*

London, Tilbury and Southend.—The guaranteed dividend of 6 per cent. was declared. The report stated that, notwithstanding the depression of railway traffic during the past six months, the actual decrease in the receipts, as compared with the corresponding half of 1857 is not more than 291*l.* During the six weeks following the close of the half-year the gross traffic receipts are upwards of 1,700*l.* more than in the corresponding period last year. The proportions of the receipts from the passenger traffic of this line for the half-year ending 30th of June last, which are payable to other companies, amount to 4,184*l.* for the Blackwall Railway, to 3,299*l.* to the Eastern Counties Railway, and 409*l.* to the North London Railway. The capital account of the Tilbury and Southend line showed that 600,906*l.* had been received, and 592,816*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 8,090*l.* The capital account of the Barking branch shows that 189,987*l.* had been received, and 191,843*l.* expended, leaving a balance against the account of 1,856*l.* The

revenue account for the half-year ending June 30th showed that 21,789*l.* had been received, and 15,500*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 6,289*l.*

LLYNVI VALLEY.—The dividend declared by this company was at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum. The report stated that the revenue had been only 6,279*l.* for the past half-year, ending the 30th of June, against 7,049*l.* for the corresponding period of 1857. This difference was wholly attributable to the depression of trade, which had for upwards of nine months affected all railways. The balance at the credit of general revenue was now 12,994*l.* The capital account showed that 160,632*l.* had been received and 124,877*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 35,755*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending the 30th of June last showed that 6,279*l.* had been received and 2,826*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 3,453*l.*

MARYPORT AND CARLISLE.—The dividend paid by this company was at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the half-year. The report stated that the traffic receipts for the half-year ending the 30th of June last amounted 23,768*l.*, against 26,049*l.* at the corresponding period of 1857, showing a decrease of 2,281*l.* The expenditure amounted to 12,235*l.*, against 13,010*l.* at the corresponding period of 1857, showing a decrease of 775*l.* on the expenditure. The falling off in the receipts is attributed to the general depression of trade, and more especially to the temporary loss of traffic in connection with iron works. The auditors report that 8,968*l.* had been expended during the half-year on capital account, including 1,660*l.* for doubling 3½ miles of the railway. The total expenditure on capital account to the 30th of June last, amounted to 525,434*l*; the authorised capital being 555,000*l.*, there remains a sum of 29,566*l.* not yet expended.

MID-KENT.—A dividend of 1½ per cent., being at the rate of 3*l.* per cent. per annum, was declared. The report stated that the gross receipts earned upon the line during the past half-year amount to 2,831*l.*, showing an increase of 766*l.* as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The company's net proportion of the above will amount to 1,715*l.* From this sum must be deducted the expenses of management and the debenture interest, amounting together to 698*l.*; and leaving, with 165*l.*, the amount brought from last year, a balance of 1,248*l.* The capital account to the 30th of June last showed that 96,111*l.* had been received, and 94,264*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 1,847*l.*

MIDLAND.—The dividends declared were 2*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per cent. on the consolidated stock. 1*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* per cent. on the Birmingham and Derby stock, and 3*l.* per cent. on the preferential and Erewash Valley stock. The report stated that the traffic of the railway had been seriously injured by the severe competition carried on between the London and North Western, and the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire, and Great Northern Railway Companies. The traffic for the half-year shows an increase of only 1,766*l.* over that of the corresponding period of 1857. The balance available for dividend is 258,333*l.*, of which 8,706*l.* was brought from the previous year. The capital account shows that 20,764,582*l.* had been received, and 20,561,151*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 203,430*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending the 30th of June showed that 818,883*l.* had been received, and 366,133*l.* expended in working the traffic, 199,385*l.* interest on debentures and guaranteed stocks, 2,236*l.* Matlock deficiency, 500*l.* redemption of mortgages, and 1,000*l.* for the Ellis testimonial—making, together with 8,706*l.* from last account, 569,256*l.*, and leaving a disposable balance of 258,333*l.*

NEWPORT, ABERGAVENNY AND HEREFORD.—The usual dividends were declared by this company in accordance with the following report. During the half-year ending the 30th of June last there was expended and added to capital 45,733*l.* The ordinary share capital amounted to 547,260*l.* The preference share capital to 222,835*l.* 6 per cent., and 102,494*l.* 5 per cent.; and the debenture debt was 363,947*l.*; making together 1,236,536*l.* The gross earnings for the half-year over 50 miles amounted to 31,677*l.*, against 26,568*l.* earned over 43 miles during the corresponding half of 1857. The working expenses of the last half-year were

15,888*l.*, against 14,360*l.* for the same half of 1857. The net revenue for the half-year amounted to 15,788*l.*, to which was added 887*l.* from last account, making an available balance of 16,675*l.* Interest on the debenture debt, amounting to 7,950*l.* to the 30th of June last, of which 1,323*l.*, being the proportion due on capital expended during the half-year, had been charged to capital, and the balance was debited to revenue; and after deducting 9,186*l.* for interest on the 6 per cent. and 5 per cent. preference shares, a net balance remained of 862*l.* The capital account showed that 1,275,618*l.* had been received and 1,264,750*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 10,868*l.*

NORFOLK.—The dividend declared was 1*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per cent. upon the ordinary stock. The report stated that the amount credited by the Eastern Counties Railway Company, and assumed by them as the proportion of the joint earnings due to the Norfolk Railway Company, is 42,743*l.*, which, after deducting the interest on guaranteed stocks and loans, leaves a balance of 13,728*l.* The capital account shows that 2,229,905*l.* had been received, and 2,223,305*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 6,600*l.*

NORTH DEVON.—The dividends declared were a dividend at the rate of 16*s.* 8*d.* per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, and at the rate of 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per cent. per annum on the B stock, for the last half-year. The report stated that the gross earnings for the six months ending the 30th June last have been 10,500*l.* as compared with 10,803*l.* for the corresponding six months of 1857. The directors remark that the receipts from the 30th of June to the date of this report have increased beyond the corresponding period of last year, showing that the slight falling-off before adverted to may be fairly attributed to the general depression of in trade. The net revenue for the past half-year shows a balance of 1,297*l.* The capital account to the 30th of June shows that 496,768*l.* had been received, and 494,866*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 1,902*l.* The revenue account showed that 6,014*l.* had been received and 430*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 5,584*l.* To this is added 10*l.* from last account, making 5,594*l.* The six months' interest on debentures and to bankers amounted to 3,141*l.*, leaving 2,453*l.*

NORTH AND SOUTH WESTERN JUNCTION.—A dividend of 2*s.* per share for the half-year was declared. The report stated that there had been an increase of 225*l.* in the total receipts as compared with the corresponding six months of 1857. The net balance remaining, after deducting the interest on the debenture debt, amounts to 873*l.*, which will pay a dividend of 2*s.* per share for the half-year on the company's entire share capital, leaving a balance of 78*l.* The capital account shows that 85,218*l.* had been received, and 82,282*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 2,936*l.* The Hammersmith branch account shows that 22,648*l.* had been expended upon the branch, leaving a balance against the account of 3,507*l.* The revenue account for the half-year showed that 2,855*l.* had been received and 1,434*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 1,421*l.*

NORTH EASTERN.—The dividends of this company were declared in accordance with the recommendations contained in the following report:—The directors regret to have to report a decrease in the receipts as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The chief cause they assign for this is the great and continuous depression of trade throughout the country, consequent upon the commercial crisis of last autumn, which has more or less diminished the traffic upon all railways. The prolonged competition between the London and North Western, Great Northern, and Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Companies, has prejudicially affected this company by diverting traffic from its ordinary routes. The decrease in the passenger traffic during the past half-year amounted to 7,834*l.*, in the goods traffic to 21,830*l.*, in the cattle traffic to 2,202*l.*, and in the mineral traffic to 11,885*l.*, making together a decrease of 41,315*l.*, or 4·75 per cent. The decrease in the working and other expenses amounted to 8,397*l.*, or 2·17 per cent., leaving the decrease in the net receipts 32,918*l.*, or 6·81 per cent. The gross receipts for the half-year ending June 30, amounted to 828,066*l.*, and the working expenses and

other deductions to 377,924*l.*, leaving the net receipts 450,142*l.* The decrease in the passenger and goods traffic has extended throughout the entire system, and is clearly traceable to the general stagnation of trade. On the Berwick revenue account the disposable balance, after paying all preferential charges, amounts to 150,780*l.*, out of which the directors recommend that a dividend be declared on the ordinary stock and shares at the rate of 4¼ per cent. per annum, leaving 7,920*l.* On the York account the disposable balance is 53,273*l.*, out of which the directors recommend a dividend on the ordinary stock at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, leaving 4,989*l.* On the Leeds revenue account the disposable balance is 12,621*l.*, out of which the directors recommend a dividend upon the ordinary stock at the rate ot 1*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per cent. per annum, leaving 1,303*l.* On the Thirsk and Malton branch revenue account the disposable balance is 809*l.*, out of which the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, leaving 59*l.* An additional amount of the irredeemable 4 per cent. debenture stock has been issued. It is expected that the docks at Jarrow will be ready for opening in about three months. The capital account to the 30th of June showed that 14,836,689*l.* had been received on shares, and 7,269,233*l.* on loans and debentures—total, 22,105,922*l.* The total expenditure amounted to 22,271,079*l.*, leaving a balance against the company of 165,157*l.*

North Staffordshire.—The dividend declared was at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, free of income tax. The report of the directors stated that on their line there had been no exception to the general falling-off in the traffic of the country. The comparison of the traffic on the line with that of the corresponding half-year of 1857 shows that the decrease in the number of passengers was 67,859, and in the receipts 6,183*l.*; in goods and live stock 44,591 tons and 7,813*l.*; total decrease on the railway, 13,996*l.* On the canal the decrease was 139,630 tons, and in the receipts 16,546*l.* The capital account showed that 4,051,465*l.* had been received, and 4,020,593*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 30,872*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending the 30th of June last showed that the receipts on the railway amounted to 112,913*l.*, and the expenses to 64,956*l.*, leaving a balance of 47,957*l.* The receipts for the corresponding period of last year amounted to 123,910*l.*, the expenses to 63,984*l.*, and the balance to 59,926*l.* The canal revenue amounted to 57,737*l.*, and the expenses to 24,635*l.*, leaving a balance of 33,101*l.* The receipts of the canal at the corresponding period of last year amounted to 74,283*l.*, the expenses to 28,478*l.*, and the balance to 45,805*l.* The foregoing shows a decrease in the net receipts of the railway of 11,969*l.*, and in those of the canal of 12,704*l.*, together 24,673*l.* The amount available for dividend, including 1,072*l.* from last account, amounts to 29,965*l.*

Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton.—The dividends declared were as recommended in the annexed report. The total revenue from all sources, including the receipts of the Stourbridge and Stratford-upon-Avon Canals of 106,352*l.*, and a total expenditure of 45,611*l.*, leaving a balance of 60,741*l.*; which sum, after deduction of 26,954*l.* for interest on debenture bonds, loans, &c., 3,552*l.* for interest on debenture stock, and 3,601*l.* for Stratford Canal fixed charges, enables the directors to propose a dividend of 6 per cent. per annum on the first guaranteed stock, amounting to 25,439*l.*, and of ½ per cent. per annum upon the second guaranteed stock, amounted to 1,462*l.* The capital account shows an increase of 28,296*l.*, that 4,346,102*l.* had been received, and 3,995,848*l.* expended, leaving a nominal balance of 350,254*l.* The arrears of interest due on the second guaranteed redeemable stock now amount to 18*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* per cent.

Shrewsbury and Hereford.—The report stated that the expenditure on capital account during the past six months was 12,390*l.*, of which 12,116*l.* was for the purchase of the Leominster Canal, and 273*l.* for sidings and other works. The gross receipts of the company for the half-year ending June last show an increase of 4*l.* 12*s.* per cent. over the corresponding half of 1857. The receipts for passengers, parcels, and mails, amounted to 35,950*l.*, and for merchandise, &c., to 42,750*l.*, total 78,700*l.*, against 74,316*l.* at the corresponding half of 1857, showing an increase of 4,384*l.* The rent receivable from the lessee for the half-year

amounted to 12,895*l.*, viz. :—7,434*l.* at 4 per cent. on the ordinary stock, 1,091*l.* interest on 4½ per cent. preference shares, and 3,870*l.* interest on loans. It is proposed that during the remaining four years of the lease Mr. Brassey shall pay to the holders of the ordinary stock of the company 4½ per cent. until the gross annual receipts of the line shall exceed 85,000*l.*, and when the gross annual receipts exceed that amount then 4½ per cent. and also one-fourth of any surplus. The capital account showed that 598,881*l.* had been received, and 593,941*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 4,940*l.*

South Devon.—A dividend at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum was declared by this company. The report stated that the accounts to the 30th of June show a balance of 15,583*l.* applicable to dividend, and they recommend the following appropriation of the amount:—Annuities for half-year ending September the 1st, 5,071*l.*; dividend on new shares, 2,250*l.*; dividend on additional shares, 570*l.*; dividend on consolidated stock (1,469,425*l.*) at 1 per cent. per annum, 7,348*l.*, leaving a balance of 345*l.* The total receipts of the half-year, including 47,174*l.* from passengers and 13,943*l.* from goods, amounted to 61,531*l.*, against 64,759*l.* at the corresponding half of 1857. The decrease in the passenger traffic amounted to 2,072*l.*, and in the goods traffic to 1,193*l.* The working expenditure amounted to 34,152*l.*, against 34,784*l.* in the same half of 1857. The directors have issued 35,000*l.* of the additional share capital, and the remaining 65,000*l.* is still open to subscription. The capital account shows that 2,176,017*l.* had been received and 2,185,480*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 9,463*l.* against the company. The revenue account for the half-year showed that 61,531*l.* had been received and 34,152*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 27,379*l.* To this sum is added 2,512*l.* from the preceding account, making 29,891*l.* Out of this the interest on debentures amounted to 14,308*l.*, leaving a disposable balance, as above, of 15,583*l.*

South Wales.—The dividend fixed by this company was at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum. The report stated that the revenue during the half-year amounted to 164,235*l.*, as compared with 170,067*l.* during the half-year ending 30th of June, 1857. After payment of the dividend upon the guaranteed stock and shares for the half-year ending the 31st December last there remained a balance of 45,798*l.* After paying the present dividend there will remain 1,235*l.* to be carried forward.

South Yorkshire.—This company declared a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. on the guaranteed and 2½ per cent. on the unguaranteed stock. The report stated that the small amount of dividend was to be attributed entirely to the general commercial distress. In the passenger traffic there was, as compared with the corresponding half-year of 1857, a decrease of 245*l.*, in merchandise a decrease of 618*l.*, in the receipts from the navigation a decrease of 3,311*l.* The item of debenture interest had been increased by 1,600*l.* The gross receipts from mineral traffic had been 6,632*l.* more than in the corresponding half-year of 1857; and this would have afforded an additional 1 per cent. dividend, but for the loss in other items of traffic, owing to the depression in trade and the increase in debenture interest, amounting together to 5,954*l.*

Vale of Neath.—The dividend declared was at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum. The report stated the receipts for the half-year ending the 30th of June amounted to 42,852*l.*, and for the corresponding period of last year to 42,323*l.*, showing an increase of 529*l.*, or 1·2 per cent. The working expenses show an addition of about 784*l.*, of which about 645*l.* are due to the maintenance of permanent way. The capital account showed that 957,611 had been received and 946,272*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 11,339*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending June 30th showed that 42,852*l.* had been received and 23,096*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 19,755*l.*

Warrington and Stockport.—The dividend paid by this company was 3½ per cent. The capital account showed an expenditure of 274,162*l.* The loans and other engagements amounted in the whole to 51,727*l.*, to meet which there was unissued stock of the value of 19,920*l.*, and borrowing powers for the remainder.

The receipts from passengers, parcels, &c., amounted to 5,699*l.*, being the sum necessary to pay 3½ per cent., as guaranteed by the leasing lines. 2,723*l.* was required for interest and chief rents, and the remainder the dividend.

WEST DURHAM.—The dividend declared was at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and 383*l.* was carried to the next account. The report stated that the accounts for the year ending the 30th June last showed an available balance of 4,972*l.* The reserve fund of 2,500*l.* remained in the same position as at the commencement of the year.

WHITEHAVEN JUNCTION.—The dividend paid by this company was 7*s.* per share, and the sum of 190*l.* carried forward. The report stated that the capital account of the company showed that 193,000*l.* had been received and expended to the 30th of June last, including 48,000*l.* on loan. The revenue account showed that 10,694*l.* had been received and 6,872*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 3,822*l.* To this sum is added 605*l.* from the preceding half-year, making 4,427*l.*; out of this is deducted 2,486*l.* for interest on loans, including stamps and commission, leaving a disposable balance of 1,941*l.*

WHITEHAVEN AND FURNESS JUNCTION.—The dividend declared was 2*s.* per share, and 50*l.* carried to the next account. The report stated that the gross receipts for the half-year ending the 30th of June last amounted to 12,014*l.*, being an increase of 1,587*l.* over the corresponding period of 1857. The balance of revenue account amounted to 6,109*l.* After the payment of interest on loans, and providing a dividend of 5½ per cent. on all the preference shares, a sum of 1,187*l.* remained for the original proprietors. The authorised capital of the company in shares amounted to 364,926*l.*, and in loans to 124,933*l.*; total 489,859*l.* The capital account showed that 441,798*l.* had been received, and 469,508*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 27,740*l.* against the company. The revenue account for the half-year ending the 30th of June showed that 12,014*l.* had been received, and 5,905*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 6,109*l.* To this was added 314*l.* from the preceding account, making 6,423*l.*; and out of this was deducted 3,714*l.* for interest on loans, 1,002*l.* for interest on 10*l.* preference shares, and 520*l.* on new 10*l.* preference shares, leaving the above-mentioned balance of 1,187*l.*

SCOTCH LINES.

CALEDONIAN.—The dividends of this company were declared in accordance with the report of the directors, which stated that the balance of revenue amounted 83,345*l.*, from which is deducted 16,766*l.* for interest on original preference stock, 9,970*l.* interest of new preference shares, and 54,023*l.* for dividend on ordinary stock at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, leaving a surplus of 2,586*l.* to be carried to the credit of the contingent account, making it 7,289*l.* The revenue for half-year ending the 31st of July last shows that 315,668*l.* had been received, against 324,911*l.* at the corresponding period of 1857, showing a decrease of 9,243*l.* The working expenses amounted to 122,208*l.*, or 38·7 per cent., against 132,612*l.*, or 40·8 per cent., showing a decrease of 10,404*l.* The revenue suffices to pay at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the class A shares, and to give in addition 1,229*l.* (or at the rate of about 5 per cent. per annum) towards reduction of the 5 per cent. due to the holders of the first issued shares of that class from the date of their respective payments of calls. The capital account shows that 8,540,343*l.* had been received, and 8,466,472*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 73,871*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending 31st July last showed that 320,197*l.* had been received, and 129,769*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 190,428*l.*

EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW.—This company declared a dividend at the rate of

3 per cent. per annum, and carried forward 905*l.* The report stated that there has been a decrease in the traffic receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of July last of 4,436*l.*, as compared with the corresponding period of 1857. The working expenses, after deduction of the sum due for working the Helensburgh Railway, amount to 52,227*l.*, or 38 per cent. The charge for interest was 2,714*l.* in excess, arising in some degree from the heavy payments made for temporary advances in the beginning of the year. The net balance, after payment of all charges, and providing 13,000*l.* on Stirling and Dunfermline Railway account up to the date of the transfer of that line to the company, amounts to 39,842*l.*, which, with a balance of 1,287*l.* from last half-year, makes a total of 41,129*l.* available for dividend. With respect to the capital account, the sum of 3,654*l.* has been expended on works in hand, estimated in last report to cost 16,500*l.* The directors see no reason to doubt that the balance of 12,846*l.* will complete these works. In like manner, 3,894*l.* has been paid towards the 12,000*l.* then estimated as necessary for new plant wanted on account of the opening of the Helensburgh Railway. The capital account to 31st of July last showed that 4,254,513*l.* had been received, and 4,228,972*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 25,540*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending 31st of July showed that 144,371*l.* had been received, and 56,841*l.* expended in working, 25,811*l.* interest on debentures, and 21,875*l.* dividends and rent payable to other companies, leaving 39,842*l.*

Edinburgh, Perth and Dundee.—There was no dividend declared on the original stock. The report stated that the revenue for the half-year ending the 31st of July amounted for passengers, &c., to 35,619*l.*; for merchandise, minerals and cattle, to 46,105*l.*; rent and miscellaneous, 2,414*l.*; total, 84,138*l.* The expenditure amounted to 42,053*l.*, leaving 42,085*l.* A comparison of the revenue and expenditure showed that the receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of July, 1857, amounted to 89,929*l.*, ending the 31st of July, 1856, to 85,959*l.*, and ending the 31st of July, 1855, to 79,351*l.*; the expenditure amounted to 50,377*l.*, 41,405*l.*, and 43,769*l.* respectively. The net receipts were for the half-year ending the 31st of July, 1858, 42,085*l.*; ending the 31st of July, 1857, 39,551*l.*; ending the 31st of July 1856, 44,554*l.*; and ending the 31st of July, 1855, 35,582*l.* The falling off in the receipts is attributed to a continuance of the general depression in the trade and commerce of the country. Out of the net revenue of 42,085*l.* the sum of 23,490*l.* is deducted for interest on first-class debentures, 7,358*l.* on second-class debentures and on debenture stock, 1,954*l.* on the Granton preference stock, and 9,281*l.* on the 4 per cent. preference stock at the rate of 3¾ per cent. per annum, leaving a balance of 1*l.* To this is added 2,046*l.* surplus from the previous half-year, making 2,047*l.* The charge for first-class debenture interest shows an increase of 5,416*l.* as compared with the corresponding half of 1857. The capital account shows that 3,321,880*l.* had been received, and 3,314,832*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 7,047*l.*

Forth and Clyde Junction.—The dividend declared was at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, and 186*l.* carried to next account. The report stated that the accounts up to 31st July last show the receipts to be 9,237*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*, and the expenditure 6,793*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, leaving a balance of 2,444*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, from which falls to be paid dividend on preference shares to 31st July last, at 5 per cent. per annum, 670*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, leaving a balance of 1,774*l.* applicable to the ordinary dividend.

Glasgow and South Western.—The dividend here declared was at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, free of income tax, carried over 3,066*l.* The report stated that the revenue for passengers in the past half-year amounted to 48,109*l.* and for the corresponding half of 1857 to 50,575*l.*, showing a decrease of 2,465*l.* There has also been a decrease in the number of season tickets issued. The receipts for goods and minerals amounted to 114,902*l.*, against 116,543*l.* at the corresponding period of 1857, showing a decrease of 1,641*l.* The working expenses amount to 67,710*l.*, being fully 2,000*l.* less than those of the corresponding

period of 1857, while the percentage of the receipts is 39½, as contrasted with 40. The disposable balance on revenue account, inclusive of 3,974*l.* from the preceding half-year, amounts to 73,729*l.* Of this the guaranteed consolidated stock will absorb 3,906*l.*, the preference 10*l.* shares 6,250*l.*, and the perpetual guaranteed 5 per cent. to 1,448*l.*; together, 11,604*l.*; leaving 62,125*l.* applicable for dividend on ordinary stock. The capital account shows that 4,508,689*l.* had been expended on railways, plants, and works belonging to the company, and 232,951*l.* invested in stocks held by the company, making the total expenditure 4,741,641*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending 31st July last showed that 175,647*l.* had been received, and 72,174*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 103,473*l.* To this was added 3,974*l.* from the previous account, making 107,447*l.* From this 28,433*l.* was deducted for interest on loans, 1,589*l.* wayleaves, 1,695*l.* relaying of way, and 2,000*l.* for renewals of locomotives, leaving a balance as above of 73,729*l.*

North British.—The dividend declared was at the rate of 2¾ per cent. per annum, leaving a surplus of 500*l.* The report stated that the gross income of the company for the six months ending 31st of July amounted to 134,920*l.*, showing an increase of 6,692*l.* over that of the corresponding period of 1857. The working expenses showed an increase of 2,227*l.* The total working expenses have been 49,692*l.*; other expenses, 4,009*l.*; and the interest on loans, 23,821*l.*; making together 77,522*l.* The free balance amounted to 57,397*l.*, and the surplus for the preceding half-year to 1,021*l.* making 58,419*l.*, applicable to dividend. The dividend on the guaranteed stock would absorb 25,515*l.*, leaving 34,904*l.* for dividend. The capital account showed that 4,578,999*l.* had been received, and 4,490,366*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 88,633*l.*

Scottish Central.—The dividend was at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum, free of income tax. The report stated that the total receipts on revenue account for the half-year ending the 31st of July, amounted to 75,510*l.*, and the total expenditure to 50,669*l.*, leaving a profit of 24,841*l.*, which, however, shows a decrease of 2,078*l.*, as compared with the profit for the corresponding half-year of 1857. On interest account there was an increase of 1,489*l.*, and on taxation of 578*l.*, as compared with the corresponding period. To the balance of 24,841*l.* the surplus of 2,038*l.* from the preceding half-year was added, making a disposable sum of 26,879*l.* for dividend. The capital account to 31st of July last showed that 1,869,471*l.* had been received, and 1,880,341*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 10,870*l.* against the company.

Scottish North Eastern.—The dividends of this company were declared in accordance with the recommendations in the report, which stated that the gross revenue for the half-year ending the 31st of July last amounted to 89,158*l.*, including 32,330*l.* for passengers, 5,145*l.* for mails, 46,854*l.* for minerals, and 3,146*l.* for live stock. The total expenditure amounted to 45,876*l.*, leaving a balance of 43,282*l.* Of this 7-10ths, or 30,297*l.*, are appropriated to the Aberdeen revenue account, and 3-10ths, or 12,984*l.*, to the Scottish Midland revenue account. The gross receipts for the past half-year are 629*l.* less than those for the corresponding half of last year—the decrease being attributable to the general commercial depression of the country. After deducting interest and all preferable charges the balance available for dividend on Aberdeen capital stock for the half-year is 8,733*l.* To this is added 8,114*l.*, the balance from the preceding half-year, making 16,847*l.* Out of this is deducted 1,280*l.*, the dividend for the half-year on the 3½ per cent. stock; 8,300*l.*, the dividend on the 6 per cent. stock, and 5,250*l.* on the 7 per cent. stock, together 14,830*l.*, and leaving 2,016*l.* for next half-year. The surplus on the half-year applicable as dividend on Scottish Midland stock is 10,878*l.*, being 875*l.* under the sum required to pay a dividend of 4 per cent. per annum, but the directors propose that the difference be taken from the reserved account, and that a dividend of 4 per cent. be declared. The working expenses have been somewhat increased, being 1,751*l.* above the amount for the corresponding period. The capital account shows that 1,387,675*l.* had been received on Aberdeen stocks,

and 585,775*l.* on the Scottish Midland stock—together, 1,973,450*l.* The arrears on calls of the Aberdeen stocks amount to 3,664*l.*, and Scottish Midland stock to 1,925*l.* The total amount of share capital authorised to be raised was 1,394,340*l.* for the Aberdeen and 600,000*l.* for the Scottish Midland—together, 1,994,340*l.* The amount of loans on debentures authorised was 743,000*l.*, of which 728,835*l.* had been raised, leaving power to raise a further sum of 14,164*l.* The amount expended on the Aberdeen line was 1,918,976*l.*, on the Scottish Midland line 668,357*l.*, and on joint account 145,467*l.*—total 2,732,800*l.*

IRISH LINES.

DUBLIN AND BELFAST.—This company declared a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less income-tax. The report stated that there was an increase in the traffic receipts of 957*l.* as compared with the corresponding period of 1857. The total receipts for passengers and goods in the past half-year, ended June 30th, amounted to 27,667*l.*, against 26,710*l.* in the first half-year of 1857, and 25,958*l.* in the same period of 1856; the working expenses being 10,378*l.*, 11,395*l.*, and 11,347*l.* respectively. The working expenses were moderate, being only 34 3-5ths per cent. of the receipts. The total income for the half-year amounted to 34,144*l.*, the working expenses to 10,377*l.*, and, including rates and taxes, interest, and all other charges, to 17,969*l.*, leaving a balance of 16,176*l.* To this sum was added the balance of 8,681*l.*, brought from the preceding half-year, making the available sum of 24,856*l.* The capital account to June 30th last showed that 1,102,111*l.* had been received and 991,147*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 110,964*l.* The revenue account for the half-year showed that 34,144*l.* had been received, and 10,900*l.* expended for working, leaving a balance of 23,244*l.*

DUBLIN AND DROGHEDA.—The dividend declared by this company was at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, and a balance of 4,840*l.* carried forward. The report stated that the total receipts for the half-year ending the 30th of June last amounted to 40,590*l.* against 38,961*l.* at the corresponding half of 1857, showing an increase of 1,629*l.*, while the working expenses were 304*l.* less than at the corresponding period of last year, leaving an increase in the profits of 1,933*l.* The net profits of the half-year, after paying working expenses, interest on loans, and dividends on preference shares, amount to 14,029*l.* To this is added the balance of 3,566*l.* from the last half-year, making 17,596*l.*

DUBLIN AND WICKLOW.—The dividend declared was at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, leaving 816*l.* to be carried forward. The report stated that the total receipts for the past half-year amounted to 40,587*l.* and the working expenses to 17,201*l.*, leaving 23,386*l.*, of which 17,649*l.* has been paid to the Kingstown Company and their late officers, leaving 5,737*l.* To this is added 9,269*l.* from the previous half-year, making 15,006*l.* Deducting 8,642*l.* for interest, rents, rates and taxes during the half-year, and 4,772*l.* for the February dividend, there remains a net balance of 1,521*l.* The debts, exclusive of the Government loan and debentures, remaining at the close of that half-year amounted to 117,139*l.* These were reduced at 30th June last to 73,092*l.*, showing a further reduction of 44,047*l.* The capital account of the Wicklow showed that 934,529*l.* had been received and 932,454*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 2,075*l.* The revenue account for the half-year ending June 30th showed that 14,165*l.* had been received and 8,852*l.* expended, leaving a balance of 5,313*l.*, out of which 4,730*l.* was deducted for interest, leaving a balance of 583*l.*

DUNDALK AND ENNISKILLEN.—The only dividend paid by this company was on the preference stock. The report stated that there had been a slight falling off in the traffic of the last half-year, as compared with the corresponding period of

1857. This is accounted for by the general depression in trade. The total receipts for the half-year were 11,107*l.*, while those for June, 1857, were 11,420*l.*, showing a decrease of 313*l.* Of this the decrease on passengers has been 244*l.*, on goods 7*l.*, and on mails 62*l.* From the circumstance of 180,000*l.* having been expended on works as yet unproductive, and a great portion of this sum having been raised on preference shares, the dividends on which must be paid out of revenue, the directors recommend that the dividend on the original stock should be again suspended.

LONDONDERRY AND ENNISKILLEN.—The dividends here declared were at the rate of 6 per cent. on the 10*l.* shares, and 2*s.* 6*d.* on the 12*l.* 10*s.* preference shares. The report stated that the traffic receipts for the half-year ending 30th of June last amounted to 17,991*l.*, against 17,744*l.* for the corresponding period of 1857, showing an increase of 247*l.* The expenditure shows a saving in the locomotive department of 429*l.*, an increase in the coaching department of 86*l.*, in the permanent way of 68*l.*, and in the general expenses of 15*l.* The interest on loans and debentures amounts to 4,319*l.* against, for the same period of 1857, 4,026*l.*, being an excess of 293*l.*, arising from the renewal of a large number of debentures, and paying all existing interest on borrowed capital to the 30th of June. The capital account shows that 696,123*l.* had been received, and 698,473*l* expended, leaving a balance against the account of 2,350*l.*

MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN.—A dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., free of income-tax, was declared, and 646*l.* carried to next account. The report stated that the receipts on the line from Dublin to Althone, and the Longford and Cavan branches, amounted for passengers and mails to 39,931*l.*, and for goods, cattle, &c. to 33,999*l.*, total 73,930*l.* for the past half-year, against 73,226*l.* at the corresponding period of 1857, showing an increase of 704*l.* The total income from the railway and canal amounted to 81,154*l.*, and the disbursements to 53,936*l.*, leaving a net profit for the half-year of 27,218*l.* To this is added 4,628*l.* from the preceding half-year, leaving a disposable sum of 31,846*l.* The capital account for the half-year ending the 30th of June last shows that 2,584,486*l.* had been expended. The revenue account shows that 73,931*l.* had been received on the railway, 7,031*l.* from the Royal Canal, and 192*l.* for sundries, making 81,154*l.* The working expenses of the railway amounted to 27,131*l.*, and of the canal to 2,493*l.*; total, 29,624*l.* The interest on the canal and other mortgages amounted to 18,619*l.*, the income tax to 650*l.*, the repairs of a steamer for the Shannon traffic to 1,279*l.*, and the Grand Canal balance to 3,763*l.*; together 24,312*l.*, which, added to the working expenses, makes the total disbursements 53,936*l.*, and leaves, as above, 27,218*l.* The reserve fund shows a balance of 28,822*l.* in favour of the company. The revenue account for the railway from Athlone to Galway during the half-year ending the 30th of June last showed that 14,817*l.* had been received, and 14,881*l.* expended, including interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. on 470,000*l.*, leaving a deficiency of 64*l.*, which, deducted from 1,079*l.*, the surplus of last half-year, leaves 1,015*l.* to the credit of the account.

WATERFORD AND LIMERICK.—This company did not declare any dividend on the original stock. The report stated that the receipts for six months to June 30, 1858, amounted to 29,118*l.*, the working expenses to 12,858*l.*, or 44½ per cent. of the receipts; leaving 16,260*l.* The receipts for six months to June 30, 1857, amounted to 28,324*l.*, the working expenses being 14,544*l.*, or 51½ per cent., leaving 13,780*l.*; showing an increase in favour of last half-year of 2,480*l.* The total income amounted to 29,118*l.*, and the total expenditure, including law cost and interest to 14,441*l.*, leaving a balance of 14,677*l.* to pay interest on debentures and dividend on preference shares.

THE CREDIT MOBILIER.

At the recent meeting of the British Association at Leeds, Mr. W. Newmarch addressed the Section of Economic Science and Statistics "On the recent history of the Crédit Mobilier." In 1855, at Cheltenham, he ventured to state to the section his conviction that, notwithstanding the apparent great success of this extraordinary association in Paris, there were many fundamental and grave errors connected with the whole system on which it was founded, and that no long time could elapse before serious mischief might be apprehended. And there were good reasons now for believing that that statement was well founded. After a minute analysis of the prospects held forth by the promoters of the association when it was founded, in 1852, Mr. Newmarch said that it started with a paid-up capital of £2,400,000; in addition to which more than £4,000,000 had been obtained in the way of deposits; so that what might be called the available capital was about £6,000,000. This was down to the end of 1855; and they had then invested £4,000,000 in French funds, shares, &c.; and £1,300,000 were in bonds of various kinds, and about £2,000,000 were being employed in trade. So long as there was an almost continuous rise in the French funds nothing could be apparently more prosperous or free from hazard than this most extraordinary undertaking. At the close of 1855 a profit was shown, and a dividend made, of something like 50 per cent. upon the paid-up capital; but at the close of 1856 the profit announced was barely more than half of that in 1855, while 1857 showed barely more than one-third that of 1856. Indeed, during the last two years the experience of the society had confirmed the opinion of its early critics very much more than it had the hopes of its promoters. In the last two reports it had been admitted in fact, although not very clearly, that all the railway, gas and omnibus companies, the lines of postal communication, the steam packets, the obligations in Switzerland, Spain, Austria and Russia—that all these things, with which the company had become involved in carrying out its objects, had not resulted so profitably as had been expected. The report at the close of 1856 caused the £20 shares, that had been at £70 or £80, to fall to something like £30; and they had risen but very little since then. The report for 1857 was very long, and contained much fine writing; but the fact was that no dividend was declared. At the meeting in April there was an admission that a balance in favour of the society—which the report attempted to prove existed in December, assuming a certain mode of valuation—had then been swept away. Indeed, in Paris, the question had been and was being again raised, whether it was possible for the society to continue to exist separately, or whether it must not somehow be placed in conjunction with the Bank of France, upon which it has so largely depended from the first. A few figures would show the result of the society's operations. In 1855 the profit on stocks, shares, and bonds, which appeared to mean the profit from buying on one hand and selling on the other, was set down at £1,040,000; 1856,

£457,000; 1857, £180,000. Profits on commissions—1855, £57,000 1856, about the same; 1857, only £28,000. Profits on "continuations"—1855, £55,000; 1856, £171,000; 1857, £28,000. Interest on investments (all the railway and other companies it might be presumed) was set down at £121,000 in 1855; but no item appeared under that head for either of the last two years. One could not but be struck with the extraordinary state of things that could allow of the existence for even six years of so anomalous an institution—one almost entirely at variance with all that had been hitherto recognised as sound principle—which professed to have made a new discovery as to the effecting the greatest results by means of credit upon the vastest scale, but which was in fact a monstrous stock-jobbing concern, and nothing more. (Applause.) If there had been issued, as at first proposed, twenty-four millions sterling of inconvertible paper, the mischievous effects would be incalculable. The society claimed at its origin that it must be unaffected by political councils or social crises; yet, supported as it was by many persons who, for some reason, were supposed to be great authorities in finance, and supported also by all the force of the Government, the institution was crumbling away, until one was forced to believe that it was in the last stages of its existence. It might be asked how he accounted for the fact that during these six years the French finances generally seemed to have been conducted with ease and success, despite constant large expenditure, much of which was wholly unprofitable, and much yielding only an inadequate return. There was reason to believe that during the six years, on railways alone, there had been actually expended in France nearly thirty millions sterling a year—an amount not far short of what led to our railway difficulties. There had also been the Russian war, failure of the silk crops, and two partial failures of the harvest. How, then, had all this expenditure been kept up? He believed that the Crédit Mobilier had been a positive source of mischief rather than that it had in any way helped towards these wonderful results. Here was the real cause. The official returns showed that since 1845 the balance of trade had been very much more than 100 millions sterling in favour of France; the demand for French goods having come from the United States and Australia, through the gold discoveries. Our own Board of Trade reports showed that during the first half of this year the declared value of our imports from France was more than seven millions sterling; while the declared value of our exports to that country was not more than two millions. We had paid the five millions in gold received from Australia and the United States. This result was as remarkable as, to his mind, it was clear and simple, and it was another illustration of the profound and extensive changes that were being produced upon the whole of the commercial countries by the gold discoveries. (Hear, hear.) The Crédit Mobilier was a striking exemplification of the entire powerlessness, except for great mischief, of any institution that aimed at great results by any but the most honest and straightforward means. (Applause.) It started with the boast of doing the greatest things by some new

device which should relieve men from the obligation of understanding their own affairs—some contrivance greatly to dispense with labour—something to accomplish something by means which nobody could clearly understand. Its experience was like the experience of all previous similar or analogous attempts, and to us it should read the same lesson—that a nation could only increase its material wealth by relying entirely upon the industry and intelligence of its citizens. (Applause.)

Some questions having been put by Mr. Newmarch, he said he had no doubt the profit claimed to have been made in 1855 was really made, for there was a considerable rise in all kinds of securities, which was precisely the most favourable state of things for the association; but whether the twenty-four millions of paid-up capital was still intact must depend entirely upon the mode of valuation of the concerns, bonds, &c., held. Hitherto, the directors had been the valuers.

THE WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND.—ADDITIONAL CALL OF £100 PER SHARE.

The Western Bank of Scotland is again brought before the public with lamentable prominence. At the late meeting of the shareholders Mr. Lumsden, the chief liquidator, intimated, in reply to a question, that a further call would be necessary; and this afternoon, after an earnest meeting of the liquidators and the committee of shareholders, it was intimated that the state of the bank's affairs required an additional call of £100 per share. The call was accordingly made payable on the 1st of November instant. When the £25 per share was made, some months since, the liquidators acted, it is understood, upon the estimate of value of the bank's assets made by the independent committee of shareholders appointed soon after the disruption of the bank. The liquidators have now had an opportunity of looking more closely into the affairs, and they find that after payment of the first call of £25 the debts of the bank still amount to nearly £920,000. This arises from the loss on the hideous concerns of the Macdonalds, the Monteiths, the Godfrey Pattisons, and the Wallaces having been vastly under estimated by the original committee. The loss on these four bankruptcies was at first estimated at £608,000. It is now apparent that it will amount to £833,000, leaving a deficiency on this branch of about £225,000. There is also an additional loss of £300,000 upon interest; a loss of £43,000 upon the transaction with the Edinburgh banks in autumn last, when they advanced £510,000, which is to be paid in Consols at the then price; a large loss upon the American estate, &c. It is understood that the liquidators have made this large call in the determined belief that it will be a final one. The call of £25 was paid upon upwards of 18,000 shares, out of the 27,000 shares understood to be in the hands of the public, and it is calculated, we believe, that the holders of 9,000 shares will still be able to pay the £100 call in full, as many very wealthy men are connected with the bank; but hundreds of the humbler class of shareholders will be driven into ruin and bankruptcy. Upon these shareholders the intimation of this new call has come with appalling effect. The loss upon this unfortunate concern during the twenty-five years of its existence, thus amounts to no less than three millions sterling—viz.,

original paid-up capital, £1,500,000; first call of £25, which produced about £500,000; and second call of £10 per share, which must produce £1,000,000.

The following report is from the liquidators to the shareholders:—

The liquidators were appointed on the 1st of February, 1858, and immediately entered upon the duties of their office. They brought the books of the bank to a balance, as at the date of their appointment, and at once took into consideration the position of the bank's affairs, and carefully examined the report and relative vidimus submitted by the committee of investigation to the shareholders, on the 17th of December, 1857, together with the detailed valuations of the outstanding assets, and the estimates of the probable means of the shareholders, prepared by that committee. They found these valuations and estimates had been the result of minute and anxious consideration on the part of the committee, whose means of information were varied and extensive, and they had no hesitation in adopting them generally, as the basis of their first proceedings in the liquidation.

Having in view the necessity of immediately taking some step towards payment of the debts, the delay that would necessarily take place in realising the assets of the company, and the deficiency estimated by the committee at £304,692, the liquidators made a call upon the shareholders of £25 per share, payable in two equal instalments of £12 10*s.* each, upon the 1st of March and 1st of June last respectively. They calculated at the time that this call would produce a sum sufficient to cover the estimated deficiency, and probably leave a reversion available for interest and other contingencies. Their anticipations as to amount have been fully realised. The sums paid, as at the 31st of July, amount to £439,995 13*s.* 6*d.*, and adding those since received or outstanding and reckoned good, the total produce of the call of £25 per share will probably not be less than £505,084 0*s.* 9*d.*

The speedy recovery of the better class of assets during the first three months of the liquidation, and the prompt response by the shareholders to the call, enabled the liquidators, on the 10th of May last, to pay to the creditors an instalment of 10*s.* per pound on their claims as at the 9th of November, 1857. A portion of the money so paid has been relodged with the liquidators at a moderate rate of interest, by which a material saving of interest is effected.

As the liquidation proceeded, however, it became evident that the valuations put upon the outstanding assets by the committee, although at the time apparently just and reasonable, would not be realised. Debtors for large amounts taken as good became insolvent, and in almost every instance the dividends realisable from the estates of bankrupts were found to fall short of the committee's estimates. Besides these, new sources of loss and deficiency were discovered in the process of realisation, many of which it was impossible to foresee at the commencement of the liquidation; and although the call was being paid by the shareholders to an extent greater than had been expected, it became impossible to doubt that a second call would be required. As soon as it seemed certain that this result was unavoidable the liquidators resolved to bring the books of the bank to a balance as at 31st of July, 1858, being six months from the commencement of the liquidation, and with the more exact information which had become available, to examine in detail the state of affairs, and to estimate anew the value of the whole outstanding assets of the bank.

In conducting this investigation, which has been the work of several months, and which is only now brought to a close, the liquidators have, on the one hand, endeavoured to avoid understating the value of the assets, and, on the other, they have not hesitated to make allowance for losses

where doubts exist as to the sufficiency of the debtors. With regard to a very large proportion of the loss anticipated by the liquidators, there is little or no room for doubt—it may almost be said to be actually ascertained. The loss sustained through the insolvent houses of John Monteith and Co., D. and J. Macdonald and Co., Godfrey Pattison and Co. and J. and W. Wallace, which was stated by the committee at £608,203 11*s.* 3*d.*, will not, in the opinion of the liquidators, amount to less than £833,163 8*s.* 3*d.*, being a difference of £224,959 17*s.* upon those four accounts alone, and they arrive at this result almost without doubt that it is substantially correct. In another class of cases there is more room for difference of opinion. Many debtors, from whom full payment may be ultimately obtained if indulgence be judiciously granted, would, if pressed, become bankrupt; others have undertaken to pay compositions, which are only partially secured. In valuing such debts the liquidators have deemed it their duty to make what they believe will prove adequate provision for contingencies.

The debts which arose from the connexion of Messrs. James Lee and Co., of New York, with the bank, have now been reduced to £371,355 12*s.* 3*d.*, and nearly all the securities believed to be of any value, are under the control of the liquidators. These to a great extent, consist of American railway mortgage bonds, the sale of which, at present, would result in heavy loss to the bank; and under the advice of parties both in this country and in America, in whose experience and judgment the liquidators place reliance, they have resolved to delay the realisation for a time. With regard to the direct liabilities of Messrs. Lee and Co., the liquidators were desirous to bring about an amicable arrangement, but in this they have not succeeded, and, under the advice of eminent American counsel, they have instituted legal proceedings, which will be pressed forward to judgment with the least possible delay. The loss on this branch of the assets it is in these circumstances impossible to estimate with any degree of accuracy, but the liquidators have in the meantime stated it at £100,000, being an addition of £40,000 to the estimate of the committee.

The losses of the bank will be increased to the extent of about £43,000 through the agreement made in October, 1857, with the Edinburgh banks, that the loan of £510,000 made by them should be repayable in Consols.

A most important item now entering into the estimates of loss is that of interest, past and prospective. It is impossible, even yet, to state this item with precision, but having in view the time which will probably be required for the realisation of the assets and the liquidation of the debts, and the fact that only a comparatively small portion of the assets still outstanding is likely to be paid in full, with interest, the liquidators cannot assume it at less than £300,000, and this sum they have stated as a liability of the bank.

It is believed that several claims of relief are likely to be made, and to form the subject of litigation among certain classes of shareholders, in which, however, the general body of the shareholders have no direct interest. One action, however, has been instituted against the bank, which, if successful, would materially increase the ultimate loss to be provided for. On the other hand, the liquidators are anxiously watching the cases now pending in England in regard to the liability of the directors of the Borough Bank of Liverpool; and the progress of these cases will enable them to judge how far the interest of the general body of the shareholders in this bank would be promoted by active proceedings on their part against all or any of the directors. They have not, however, in the meantime, considered it incumbent upon them to make any provision in their estimates for the position of matters which might result from such suits.

With these explanations as to the principles on which their examination has been conducted, the liquidators, with deep concern, now lay before the shareholders a vidimus of the bank's affairs as at the 31st of July last, showing, as the result of their late investigation, a probable deficiency of £916,864 6*s.* 8*d.* still falling to be provided, after exhausting the first call of £25. The liquidators have arrived at this conclusion after bringing to bear upon the examination the better knowledge which they now possess of the bank's affairs, and all the care and attention of which they are capable, increased and rendered more anxious by the magnitude of the interests involved, and the grave responsibilities arising out of the result. They cannot suppose that their estimates will in all cases prove correct, but to the best of their judgment the vidimus now submitted fairly exhibits the position of the bank. The detailed lists of the new valuations have been submitted to the Glasgow section of the committee of shareholders appointed to advise in the liquidation, who, after careful examination, have become satisfied that the same are correct.

It has now become the duty of the liquidators to fix the amount of the call which the disastrous position of affairs thus disclosed has rendered necessary. This question has formed the subject of their deliberate and anxious consideration. Their past negotiations with shareholders have assisted the liquidators in estimating the amount that will probably be recovered under a second call; and, proceeding upon the best estimate which they can form of the means and resources of the shareholders, the liquidators have come to the conclusion and have resolved that a second call of £100 per share must be made upon the shareholders of the bank. The call letters are in the course of being issued.

The liquidators have further resolved, that this call shall be payable in one sum, at the office in Glasgow, on the 1st of November next. In adopting this resolution, the liquidators have had especially in view the importance of being in a situation at once to proceed where necessary for recovery of the whole amount. In cases where shareholders find it necessary to apply for reasonable delay, and satisfy the liquidators that they are making arrangements for payment of the call, the same consideration will be shown as has hitherto been done in the recovery of the first call.

The meeting to be held on the 13th current has been called under the statutes for the purpose of confirming, if so resolved, the resolution adopted at the meeting held in August last, conferring powers of compromise and discharge on the liquidators. At the date of that meeting, the liquidators did not anticipate that a call of such magnitude would be found necessary. Now that it has been made, and that the proposed delegation of powers will, in consequence, have a greatly extended range, the shareholders will, no doubt, anxiously deliberate on the propriety of confirming the previous resolution. The liquidators are more than ever satisfied that the interests of all concerned will be best protected by the course proposed, but they deeply feel the responsibility of exercising such a power even with the assistance of a committee.

The liquidators desire in closing this report to express deep and heartfelt concern that they are compelled to communicate a state of matters so much more painful and ruinous than has hitherto been anticipated. They have considered it to be their duty to every interest involved to bring out, as far as in their power, and at the earliest possible date, the true financial position of the bank, and at once to make the amount of call which a full investigation has shown to be indispensable to carry on the liquidation. Their devoted exertions will be continued for the benefit of the shareholders in realising the assets to the utmost advantage, and in maintaining, as far

as their statutory powers enable them to do so, every right and claim which may be competent as well to creditors of the bank as to the general body of shareholders.

ROB. LUMSDEN,
J. S. FLEMING.
CHAS. GAIRDNER,
SAMUEL RALEIGH,
} Liquidators.

Western Bank of Scotland,
Glasgow, Oct. 4.

Vidimus of the Affairs of the Western Bank of Scotland, in Liquidation, as at July 31, 1858, *contrasted with the State of Affairs at November* 9, 1857, *as reported on by the Committee of Investigation to the Meeting of Shareholders held on December* 17, 1857 :—

LIABILITIES.

	Committee. At Nov. 9, 1857.	Liquidators. At July 31, 1858.
I. Notes issued	£720,083 0 0	£10,698 10 0
II. Deposits—		
1. Due to Scotch banks	—	1,944,472 5 9
2. Due to general public	5,043,124 0 0	833,863 10 2
3. Due to shareholders	263,445 0 0	238,182 17 6
4. Re-deposited since 10th of May last, and held by the liquidators on call (1)	—	95,336 10 10
III. Acceptances and obligations to accept (2)	920,654 0 0	—
IV. Debts to other banks on notes payable May, 1858, and balances of exchanges (3)	780,640 0 0	—
V. Bills lodged for collection by customers	61,888 0 0	3,478 14 0
VI. Balances due to banking correspondents	48,327 0 0	5,075 1 7
VII. Bills re-discounted (4)	1,073,771 0 0	—
VIII. Outstanding letters of credit and draughts (5)	—	3,397 7 10
IX. Interest subsequent to the 9th of November, 1857, estimated at	—	300,000 0 0
X. Loss on Consols (6)	—	43,000 0 0
	8,911,932 0 0	3,477,504 17 8

1. The balances at November 9, 1857, do not include interest. The balances at July 31, 1858, include interest to November 9, 1857.
2. These have all now run off.
3. Bills amounting to £927,205 were held by the Bank of Scotland and Clydesdale Bank, and collected by them, and this debt extinguished.
4. These are now all run off.
5. These stood formerly at the credit of the banks on whom they were drawn under branch VI.
6. An additional liability will arise from the expenses which will attend the liquidation and law expenses. The liquidators cannot at present estimate the amount which may be required.

ASSETS.

	Committee. At Nov. 9, 1857.		Liquidators. At July 31, 1858.					
	Assets.	Estimated Loss.	Assets.			Estimated Loss.		
	£	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
I. Credit and overdrawn accounts, including American debts and securities*	3,652,433	885,857	2,508,959	10	7	1,247,064	4	10
II. Past due bills or debts in suspense	970,640	685,597	1,888,475	15	11	1,450,149	10	8
III. Bills current	†4,343,039	437,945	405,233	12	7	38,941	7	0
IV. Property and furniture‡	148,987	...	145,209	9	10	35,000	0	0
V. Securities held against bank's acceptances for customers§	919,573	60,000	...			—		
VI. Government and other securities‖	93,471	22,347	22,202	5	1	22,202	5	1
VII. Life policies valued at	70,000	...	68,000	0	0	—		
VIII. Arrears of call of £25 per share, estimated as likely to produce.....	...	...	65,088	7	3	—		
IX. Balances due by sundry banking correspondents	295,100	...	16,412	7	3	—		
X. Cash with bankers and on hand and bill stamps.	205,823	...	234,416	10	1	—		
Gross assets	10,698,986	...	5,353,997	18	7	—		
Deduct estimated loss in realising assets	2,091 746	...	2,793,357	7	7	—		
Estimated value of assets .	8,607,240	2,091,746	2,560,640	11	0	2,793,357	7	7
Estimated deficiency falling to be provided for by the shareholders at the respective dates above specified	304,692	...	916,864	6	8	—		
	8,911,932	...	3,477,504	17	8			

* The balances at 9th November, 1857, do not include interest. The balances at 31st July, 1858, include interest till 9th November, 1857, on such acconnts as it is believed will be recovered in full.

† These, so far as dishonoured, now appear at branch II., and the loss estimated by the committee now applies to that branch.

‡ Nearly all the branch offices have been purchased by the other banks, but the prices have not been received, in consequence of difficulties as to title, which are in course of being removed. The estimated loss will arise chiefly on the Glasgow and Edinburgh offices.

§ These acceptances are all now retired, and in so far as retired by the bank form part of branch I.

‖ These have been realised, and the loss amounts to £22,202 5*s.* 1*d.*

APPENDIX.

Schedule showing in brief the Amount of Loss as Estimated by the Committee and by the Liquidators respectively.

	Committee.	Liquidators.
John Monteith and Co	£276,841 3 5	£339,968 15 1
D. and J. Macdonald and Co	147,727 8 2	246,739 17 0
J. and W. Wallace	140,813 17 2	159,577 19 0
Henry Watson and Co., Watson and M'William, and J. G.G. Kinnear and Co.	99,851 14 10	130,548 5 0
Godfrey Pattison and Co	44,821 2 6	86,576 16 5
William Smith and Co	26,482 11 1	34,861 3 10
William Brown and Co.	27,600 0 0	31,458 12 1
John Macvicar	5,671 8 1	27,671 8 1
American account	60,000 0 0	100,000 0 0
Loss at branches	505,333 19 3	585,026 13 1
Government and other securities	22,347 0 0	22,202 5 1
Property and furniture	...	35,000 0 0
Sundry accounts embraced in branches 1, 2 and 3 of the assets	736,253 15 6	993,426 0 3
	£2,091,746 0 0	£2,793,357 15 8
		2,091,746 0 0
Difference	.....	£701,611 15 8

MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS.

A statutory meeting of the shareholders in the Western Bank of Scotland was held on Wednesday, October 13th, in the Merchants' Hall, Glasgow.

Bailie Blackadder took the chair. He said the meeting had been called for the purpose of confirming the resolution passed at the general meeting held on the 24th of August last, which had for its object the empowering the liquidators to make compromises with those creditors who could not pay the full sums due on the calls made on them. No doubt many individuals would be glad to pay their calls, but they might not be able to do so; and unless the liquidators had power to effect such compromises a great deal would be lost to the company. By giving the liquidators power to make compromises and give discharges in a quiet way, without coming before a public meeting, many persons not able to pay up in full would, either of themselves, or with the assistance of friends, come forward and pay up as much as they could. The shareholders would easily see how important it was, therefore, to the interests of the concern that the resolution of the 24th of August should be confirmed. He concluded by moving that the meeting confirm the resolution referred to.

Mr. Adam seconded the motion, which was opposed by

Captain Maconnochie, who protested against being held responsible as a partner in the Western Bank. That resolution was passed at a season when most of those were out of town who would have opposed it. The meeting alluded to was called in Glasgow at the instance of the friends of the directors, in order to work upon the national feeling. They were told that they should uphold Glasgow trade and the Scotch banking system, and men of integrity and influence were induced to attend the meeting and delude the shareholders of the Western Bank. There was one party, how-

ever, who stood in a different position, Mr. Buchanan. He then proceeded to call attention to the Act of Parliament by which the liquidators are entitled to act, and also to the amended Act under which they wish to be empowered. He was at a loss to see how the public prosecutor had abstained from investigating the general management of the bank. The public prosecutor, with the fact before him of the Edinburgh banks refusing their support, and the evidence before the Sheriff Courts showing that the directors had a knowledge of the bank's affairs, and also with the evidence of Mr. Fleming before him, was bound to look to the matter. They were told of the advantages to be derived from those four gentlemen being enabled to make compromises with closed doors, but he feared it was not the small shareholders that would be benefited by that arrangement, but the large shareholders. It was not great shareholders that he was representing, but the mass present.

After some discussion,

Captain Wellwood moved an amendment to the effect, that the liquidation should go on as permitted by the old Act; that, in fact, they should decline to confirm the resolution adopted at the last meeting.

After a few words from a member of the Edinburgh committee, relative to Captain Wellwood's having quoted the opinion of counsel as to the responsibility of the liquidators, about ten or a dozen hands were held up for the amendment, and the motion was carried.

Mr. Bannatyne, law agent, said that it was not competent for them at this meeting to make any alteration upon the resolution.

In answer to a question from another shareholder, it was explained that the committee held powers to consult and act with the liquidators, and that there was no necessity for giving them further powers, as every document in the possession of the liquidators was open for the inspection of any shareholder who applied to see it.

The Rev. Mr. Neilson, of Rothesay, alluded to the extensive power which this vote gave to the liquidators. The call now made, if paid up fully, would amount to more than £3,000,000 of money.

The shareholders then resolved themselves into a special meeting, Mr. Blackadder retaining the chair at the request of the meeting.

Mr. Sandford, of Edinburgh, said that they would proceed to take up the following resolution, which had been come to, and copies of which had been circulated among the shareholders:—

"Having heard read the following resolution, unanimously passed by the general committee of shareholders at a meeting held at Glasgow on the 4th October current, viz.—'That, taking into consideration the lamentable condition of the affairs of the Western Bank now disclosed, the committee of shareholders are of opinion, that the united shareholders have a just claim upon the deputy-governor and directors for reimbursement of the calls made and to be made, as well as for the loss of the shares; and that this resolution shall be forthwith communicated by the secretary of the bank to the directors in the management at the period when they declared a dividend of 9 per cent. on the stock in the month of June, 1857:' this meeting unanimously approves of the said resolution, and authorises and empowers the said committee to take such measures as to them shall seem fit for investigating the claim for repetition of calls and loss of capital, either independently, or along with the liquidators of the bank; and for this purpose to employ agents and counsel to advise with the committee, and to report to a future meeting the proceedings which may be necessary to enforce said claim." He proposed to follow up this resolution by moving that the meeting now unanimously approve

of the same, and at the same time that instructions be given that it be communicated to the liquidators, accompanied by a request to proceed with all despatch in obtaining an opinion of counsel on behalf of the whole body of the shareholders as to taking steps against the directors, and thereafter to take measures to render the claims of the shareholders sufficient. (Applause.) It was necessary for them to set the machinery in motion by which they hoped to be relieved eventually in some part of their distress. (Hear.) He happened to be one of an association which had been formed in Edinburgh, for the purpose of investigating into the affairs of the bank, and for some months they had been engaged in making inquiries. The investigation disclosed a system of gigantic falsehood he believed unparalleled in the history of banking, or indeed of any commercial business whatever. From the year 1853, it had now been proved that the bank had lost more than a fourth of its whole capital, besides its whole rest and reserve fund. From 1853 downwards the event had been going on increasing, till, as they knew, the year 1856, and especially 1857, when not only had the whole capital been lost, but it was involved in debt amounting to a million and a half of money. He mentioned these things without any vindictive feeling, for he had no desire to see the directors brought before the bar of a criminal court. Neither would he press hardly against them for civil liability, if he thought their errors had simply been errors of judgment. At the same time, when he thought of the many parties who, by this unfortunate concern, had been brought to the brink of ruin; how desolation had been carried into many happy homes; of the extreme poverty of those who had previously been able to afford every comfort, and how that many a grey hair would be brought in sorrow to the grave—(cheers)—he could not doubt but that the law and justice of this land would afford a remedy. (Cheers.) From 1853 downwards he found from the published balance-sheets that bad debts, and debts due by discharged bankrupts on which composition had been paid, were set down as assets, together with interest said to be due on the same. He had found dividends paid out of capital for the last six years.

Mr. Blackburn seconded Mr. Sandford's motion, which was carried unanimously.

Captain W. Wellwood then moved, "That this meeting sanction the appointment of a law committee in Edinburgh to assist the liquidators.

The motion was agreed to; and after some further discussion, in which Mr. Fleming and others took part, the meeting broke up.

THE PARTNERS IN THE BANK.

An analysis of the recently published list of the partners of the Western Bank exhibits the following results:—The deputy-governor, the five extraordinary and the six ordinary directors, hold 2,133 shares, the largest holding being 350, and the smallest 45—the qualification for office being 30 shares. There are 63 partners of the bank having 100 shares and upwards; of these, 13 hold 200 to 300 shares, six hold 300 to 400, and two exceed 400 shares. The two highest shareholders are, a Manchester merchant, holding 490 shares (in addition to 60 held by trustees for himself and spouse), and a clergyman in Somersetshire, holding 415 shares. The rest of the larger shareholders are all in Scotland, and are thus distributed: 27 in Glasgow, 7 elsewhere in Lanarkshire, 12 in the city and county of Edinburgh, 4 in Ayrshire, 3 in Argyleshire, 3 in Renfrewshire, 2 in Stirlingshire, 1 trusteeship in Dumfrieshire, 1 proprietor in Perthshire, and 1 in

Fifeshire. Of the above 63 cases, 12 are holdings vested in trustees. In one family in Lanarkshire there are four partners, having 1,262 shares, and in the same family there are two trust estates possessing 632 shares. Taking the list as a whole, it appears that the disastrous consequences of the failure of this bank chiefly fall on Lanarkshire and other western counties of Scotland, and on the county of Edinburgh. The following is, as nearly as can be estimated, the local distribution of the shares—Argyleshire, 38 shareholders, with 1,061 shares; Ayrshire, 161 shareholders, with 1,881 shares (of which in the town of Ayr 47 proprietors, with 567 shares); Bute, &c., 46 shareholders, with 558 shares; Clackmannanshire, 25 shareholders, with 217 shares; Dumbartonshire, 36 partners, with 526 shares; Dumfriesshire, 40 partners, with 768 shares; Edinburghshire, 263 partners, with 6,162 shares (of which in the city of Edinburgh there are 227 partners, with 5,514 shares); Fifeshire (with Kinross), 37 partners, with 419 shares; Forfarshire, 56 proprietors, holding 485 shares (of which in Dundee 26 partners, holding 275 shares); Lanarkshire, 384 proprietors, holding 11,315 shares (of which in the city of Glasgow 297 partners, with 8,178 shares); Perthshire, 36 proprietors, with 450 shares; Renfrewshire, 62 proprietors, with 1,363 shares (of which in the town of Greenock 22 partners, holding 567 shares, and in the town of Paisley, 21 proprietors, holding 268 shares); Stirlingshire, 33 shareholders, with 603 shares; in nine northern countries,—namely, Aberdeen, Kincardine, Elgin, Nairn, Inverness, Ross, Cromarty, Caithness, and Shetland—there are distributed 19 shareholders possessing 181 shares; and in eight south-eastern and southern counties—namely, Berwick, Haddington, Linlithgow, Roxburgh, Peebles, Selkirk, Kirkcudbright, and Wigtown—there are scattered 36 partners, having 362 shares. In England and Wales there are 31 proprietors, holding 1,283 shares, of which above two-thirds are represented by the two largest shareholders of the bank already alluded to. Of the 31 there are in London six shareholders, with 97 shares; in Manchester four shareholders, with 584 shares (including the case already referred to). The remaining cases are distributed in units over England, except in the case of the Isle of Man, where there are four holdings, comprising 36 shares. In Ireland there are seven holdings, consisting of 119 shares. In six cases the proprietors reside abroad, and their holding is only 72 shares. In the published list from which the above calculations are drawn, there are several cases where the amount of the holding is left blank; and there are cases representing about 300 shares in which the designation is too indefinite to enable their locality to be fixed. It appears that the shares held by the bank itself are 1,772 in number, besides 405 held for behoof of the Ayr Bank. In nearly 250 cases the shares are vested in trustees; the trust property representing from a fifth to a fourth part of the whole. One of the most distressing features of the list is the repeated occurrence of the names of whole families, six or eight members of the same family sometimes appearing in succession. Another is the very large number of female proprietors who have evidently enjoyed the investment as an annuity, and many of whom are now deprived of their all. In the city of Edinburgh, and in various watering-places, such as Rothesay, Helensburgh, Moffat, &c., large numbers of persons living in retirement appear in the list, and in many of these cases, as is well known, their whole means of livelihood have been cut off. It will be seen from the above that, on the supposition that all parties were able to meet the demand, the present call upon Lanarkshire alone amounts to £1,131,500, on Edinburghshire £616,200, the other counties following according to the proportions above indicated.

The Messrs. Baird, of Gartsherrie, paid the full amount of their call on Tuesday, October 5th. The family hold among them 1,886 shares, and the sum paid, at £100 per share, amounted to £188,600.

THE FRENCH CUSTOMS.

The French Custom-house have just published the complete statistics of the trade of France in 1857. The real value of the total imports of France in 1857, including the precious metals and the transit trade, was £107,560,000, and the real value of the exports, including the same, £105,560,000, making the total value of the imports and exports together £213,120,000. Of this amount, representing the total external trade of France, £153,200,000 is the value of the united imports and exports by sea, and £59,920,000 of the exchanges carried on by the land frontier. The total trade, which represented a value of £213,120,000 in 1837, was only £93,600,000 in 1847, showing an increase of £119,520,000, or 128 per cent. in a period of ten years. In estimating this prodigious increase, the enhanced value of all articles in 1857, and the large movements of the precious metals of 1857, of which there was no corresponding item in 1847, must be taken into account; as also that trade was exceptionally depressed in 1847 and very active during the first nine months of 1857. Yet, after making all these allowances, there still remains a real and positive augmentation, corresponding to a certain extent with that which has taken place in this country, and affording strong proof of the material progress France has made during the last few years. In 1857 the total value of the trade between France and Great Britain (imports and exports together) was £38,960,000; in 1847 it was only £10,480,000; showing an increase of £28,480,000, or 272 per cent. Although the same allowances must in this case be made as in estimating the general increase of the commerce of France, and perhaps to a greater extent, yet there is a very large actual advance; and it will be noticed that the trade between France and England has trebled, while the general trade of France has little more than doubled. It is to be remarked that Havre and Marseilles between them represent a value of £96,120,000 out of £153,200,000, or nearly two-thirds of the trade of France by sea. Next, although at a good distance below them, comes Boulogne, the principal point of the transit between France and England; and close to it is Bordeaux, the great centre of the wine trade. A good deal lower comes Nantes and Dunkirk, and these six ports concentrate 85 per cent. of the total maritime trade of France. The special trade of France, representing the imports for home consumption and the exports of French produce and manufactures, is very much less than the total trade, including the transit trade, to which all the foregoing figures have reference. It is especially in the transit trade that French commerce has increased in the last ten years, and this result is mainly, if not entirely, attributable to the influence exercised by the great lines

of railway from Paris to the Belgian, German, and Swiss frontiers, and from Lyons to the Swiss frontiers, which have more and more tended to make Havre, Marseilles, and Boulogne the ports of the central portions of Western Europe.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to Thursday, October 14 :—

DEBTOR.	F.	C.
Capital of the Bank	91,250,000	0
Ditto, New	91,250,000	0
Profits in addition to capital (Art. 8, Law of June 9, 1857)	1,518,467	77
Reserve of the Bank	12,980,750	14
New reserve	9,125,000	0
Ditto in landed property...	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	690,492,375	0
Bank notes to order	7,454,000	88
Receipts payable at sight	8,096,786	0
Treasury account-current, creditor	117,610,609	54
Sundry accounts-current...	140,190,963	75
Do. with the branch banks	28,320,980	0
Dividends payable	734,599	25
Discounts and sundry interests	2,269,248	77
Commission on deposits ...	5,658,245	81
Re-discounted during the last-six months	1,066,532	18
Surplus of paid-up bills ...	84,757	68
Sundries	3,410,192	60
	F. 1,215,458,509	34

CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand	253,294,667	20
Cash in the branch banks	296,080,748	0
Commercial bills overdue	268,161	67
Do. discounted, but not due	191,492,672	78
Ditto in the branch banks	211,724,901	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	1,006,300	0
Do. by the branch banks	1,654,600	0
Do. on French public securities	51,804,200	0
Do. by the branch banks	10,828,510	0
Do. on railway securities	45,770,200	0
Do. by the branch banks	22,553,850	0
Do. on Crédit Foncier scrip	577,000	0
Do. on branch banks scrip	219,300	0
Do. to the State on agreement of June 30, 1848...	45,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	12,980,750	14
Ditto disposable	52,188,102	18
New shares, not settled ..	73,150	0
Hotel & furniture of the Bk.	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	6,617,585	0
Expenses of the Bank.....	1,269,894	88
Sundries.....	6,058,917	4
	F. 1,215,458,509	34

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, DE GERMINY.

Although it was known that the above return would show a falling off in the bullion, its extent (£1,770,000) is greater than was anticipated. The drain is attributed chiefly to the demand for silver at Vienna in connection with the arrangements of the Austrian Bank; but it is thought to have been increased by purchases of foreign grain and the requirements of the vintage. The total of specie now held is £22,000,000. There has been an augmentation of £1,350,000 in the discounts, indicating a fair demand at the present minimum of 3 per cent. The note circulation has also increased £1,800,000. To the advances on rentes and shares there have been large additions, namely, £750,000 in the former case, and £290,000 in the latter. In the Treasury balances there is a reduction of £640,000.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade returns for the month of August were issued on the 23rd of September, and again show a considerable falling off as compared with the corresponding period of last year, although not to

an extent equal to most of the previous instances, the general depression in other articles having been greatly counteracted by active shipments of cotton goods to the East Indies and the Mediterranean. The reduction, therefore, is only £504,042. Among the items which show the greatest diminution, hardwares and haberdashery are again prominent, these productions being influenced chiefly by the state of the American and colonial trade. There is likewise a heavy falling off under the head of unenumerated articles, the amount of which usually furnishes a good test of the activity or otherwise of ordinary business. The subjoined table exhibits the exact increase or decrease in each description of export :—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Months ending Aug. 31, 1857, and Aug. 31, 1858.	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.
Apparel and slops	£218,127	£177,578	—	£40,549
Beer and ale	131,219	122,730	—	8,489
Books	34,864	32,975	—	1,889
Butter	63,550	57,198	—	6,352
Candles	26,147	23,450	—	2,697
Cheese	7,142	7,345	£203	—
Coals and culm	308,194	282,548	—	25,646
Cordage...	24,612	18,831	—	5,781
Cottons	2,637,313	3,064,530	427,217	—
Cotton yarn	832,883	851,316	18,433	—
Earthenware	127,949	104,806	—	23,143
Fish	118,801	81,693	—	37,108
Furniture	28,789	21,912	—	6,877
Glass	58,939	53,757	—	5,182
Haberdashery	435,056	341,698	—	93,358
Hardwares	386,842	272,017	—	114,825
Leather	213,120	211,703	—	1,417
Linens	408,033	377,603	—	30,430
Linen yarn	142,409	163,750	21,341	—
Machinery	387,645	256,550	—	131,095
Iron and steel	1,220,227	1,223,718	3,491	—
Copper and brass...	337,752	240,469	—	97,283
Lead	70,741	98,792	28,051	—
Tin	197,302	138,429	—	58,873
Oil seed	77,080	68,869	—	8,211
Painters' colours...	42,889	41,673	—	1,216
Pickles and sauces	42,708	31,247	—	11,461
Plate and jewellery	47,898	28,963	—	18,935
Salt	35,288	29,238	—	6,050
Silks	314,127	234,625	—	79,502
Soap	19,724	18,450	—	1,274
Soda	66,321	79,850	13,529	—
Spirits	49,623	23,849	—	25,774
Stationery	69,223	81,777	12,554	—
Sugar, refined	20,479	50,289	29,810	—
Wool	145,068	112,068	—	33,000
Woollens	1,071,275	1,051,709	—	19,566
Woollen Yarn	330,790	307,344	—	23,446
Unenumerated articles	888,656	749,414	—	139,242
Total	11,638,805	11,134,763		

Over the corresponding month of 1856, the present total shows an increase of £381,471.

The value of our exports for the first eight months of the year has been £75,596,564, showing a decrease of £9,070,154, or about 10½ per cent. The decline each month has been in the following proportions :—

	Decrease.
January	£1,836,505
February	2,024,624
March	1,456,074
April	534,411
May	1,117,556
June	389,407
July	1,207,535
August	504,042

Compared with the corresponding eight months of 1856 there has been an increase of £906,630 ; and looking at the fact, that, after the weeding effected by the panic, which would probably have been complete had there been no tampering with the Bank Charter Act, the transactions now going on may nearly all be assumed to be of a healthy character, these figures must be regarded with great satisfaction.

With respect to imported commodities, the chief feature continues to be a large increase in the arrivals of wheat and flour. Of most other articles of food and luxury also the consumption has been on a full scale.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption :—

Months ending Aug. 31, 1857, and Aug. 31, 1858.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Grain, wheat, qrs.	283,480	373,774	283,480	373,774
Grain of other descriptions, qrs.	370,007	440,140	370,007	440,140
Indian corn, qrs....	79,156	142,764	79,156	142,764
Flour and meal, cwt.	72,905	247,496	72,905	247,496
Provisions—Bacon, &c. &c., cwt.	25,100	47,348	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt.	75,211	65,177	78,247	63,008
Animals, No.	42,604	26,957	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	11,245,600	12,281,400	11,245,600	12,256,000
Cocoa, lb.	279,622	724,665	193,590	262,852
Coffee, lb.	6,140,531	7,444,315	2,637,679	2,738,569
Sugar, cwt.	786,066	821,846	536,678	798,032
Tea, lb....	3,113,719	6,988,542	5,618,156	6,273,705
Rice, cwt.	458,144	425,828	133,443	140,463
Spirits, gallons	768,663	818,146	345,716	335,271
Wines, gallons	795,335	588,091	522,104	522,526
Tobacco, lb.	1,527,848	2,558,529	2,651,997	2,775,803
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt...	1,736	18,798	16,184	22,845
Lemons and oranges, bushels ...	5,594	6,457	6,214	4,233
Spices, lb.	94,572	711,245	304,379	408,479
Ditto, cwt.	3,587	2,626	1,426	2,560

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material:—

Months ending Aug. 31, 1857, and Aug. 31, 1858.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Flax, cwt.	269,235	196,040	—	—
Hemp, cwt	118,452	188,232	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	865,080	573,599	362,469	436,711
Cotton, cwt....	480,807	681,382	98,526	107,548
Wool, lb.	13,329,358	9,513,977	7,485,392	5,147,137
Tallow, cwt.	95,415	93,951	1,146	6,757

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus:—

Months ending Aug. 31, 1857, and Aug. 31, 1858	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	65,385	71,740	62,062	70,011
Ditto of India, pieces	10,910	17,490	4,734	2,129

THE LONDON AND EASTERN BANKING COMPANY.

THE BANKRUPTCY OF JOHN EDWARD STEPHENS, MANAGER OF THE ABOVE-NAMED BANK.

WANT of space alone has prevented hitherto the insertion of the following very extraordinary examination, which took place before the Sheriff at the Edinburgh Court of Bankruptcy. John Edward Stephens was the manager of the London and Eastern Banking Company, and became greatly indebted to that unfortunate concern. Knowing pretty well that if he made his appearance before a London Commissioner, he would never obtain his certificate, even if nothing more serious occurred, he adopted the course, which we regret to find has frequently been resorted to of late by men whose antecedents will not bear investigation, of migrating for a few days to the north of the Tweed, thereby enabling him to avail himself of the privilege of declaring himself bankrupt in Scotland. In his hope of escaping from his creditors, as will be seen from his examination, he was greatly deceived; and it is to be hoped that the example made of him will be a warning to others who might feel disposed to follow his example.

The examination of John Edward Stephens, whose name was recently published as a bankrupt in the *Edinburgh Gazette*, and who was described as "formerly banker, and lately of Gothic-lodge, Twickenham, Middlesex," commenced before Sheriff Hallard, at the Court of Bankruptcy, Edinburgh, on Monday, December 7th. The sederunt included Mr. George Young, advocate, counsel for the trustee and creditors; Mr. Graham Binney, trustee; Mr. James Webster, agent in the sequestration; Mr. A. R. Clarke, advocate, counsel for the bankrupt; Mr. James F. Wilkie, agent for the bankrupt; Mr. Charles James Fife Stewart, London, interim manager of the London and Eastern Banking Corporation; and a number of creditors. The bankrupt, on being examined, deponed as follows:—

"I came to reside in Scotland in June last. I was manager of the London and Eastern Banking Corporation before I came to Scotland. I was appointed to that office in June, 1855, and I was relieved from the situation on the 11th of April, 1857. I was a shareholder of the bank, and was one of the directors from 1855 till July, 1856, when I left the direction, and was reappointed in September, 1856. I think it was upon the 23rd of the month that I was re-elected, and thereafter I continued to be a manager until I left in July, 1857. I was a director and shareholder for four years prior to my sequestration of the Eastern Steam Navigation Company. From the end of 1855 till my present sequestration I was a partner of a company known as Letts's Wharf Company, sawyers and timber merchants, Commercial-road, Lambeth. There my sole partner in that concern was Mr. James Black, secretary to the London and Eastern Bank. In 1856 I became a partner of the firm of Minter and Co., upholsterers, Frith-street, Soho-square. It was on the 29th of September, of that year that I became partner of that firm.. Mr. James Black already mentioned, was my only partner in that concern also, and we commenced it together. From October till November, 1856, I think I was also a partner of the Branksea Clay Company; but for a more accurate specification of the dates than I can at present remember I refer to the cancelled deed of copartnery now in the hands of the bank. My sole partner thoughout the latter concern was Colonel William Petrie Waugh. He was also a director of the aforesaid bank. I now remember that I was at one time connected with a watchmaker's business, called Barwise and Co., Piccadilly, London. I was a partner of that concern from 1855 to 1857. The sole partners were Mr. Robert John Lattey and myself. Mr. Lattey was a director of the London and Eastern Bank. The account kept between Lett's Wharf and the bank was a cash credit account, upon security. It was opened on the 22nd of December, 1855, by the authority of the directors of the bank; and being asked how that appears, deponent desires the minute book of the bank to be shown; and being shown the minute book of the directors from the commencement of the bank till the 14th of August, 1857, depones: I am unable to find in that book any authority for opening the account in question. The book shown to me is chiefly in my own handwriting, each minute of a meeting being at the end thereof initialed by the chairman. But I beg to say that a good deal of the business of the bank does not appear in the said minute book, which is the weekly minute book. I have no doubt but I obtained the authority of the director of the day to open the account in question. The business was entirely carried on with money drawn from the bank with the cognisance of the directors. The business of Minter and Co., which I carried on along with Mr. Black, was a business of upholsterers and manufacturers of invalid chairs. An advance of £2,800 was taken for that business from the bank on the 26th of September, 1856, and I now see a "borrowed note" of that date for that amount. The whole of that document is in the writing of Mr. Black, including the signature of Minter and Co. That advance was passed by the directors, as shown by the minute of a meeting of the board of directors of that date. The chairman of that meeting was Mr. John Morris, and the entry is in his handwriting. Mr. Morris is now my father-in-law, though he was not so on that date. He became my father-in-law next day — (Laughter). Colonel Waugh was proprietor of Branksea Island and Castle, near Poole, Dorsetshire, and the Branksea Clayworks are on that estate. (Shown the minute book of the directors.) I find in the minute of meeting of 30th March, 1855, which is in my handwriting, the following passage:—"The manager brought before the board the wish

of Colonel Waugh, of Branksea Castle, to become one of the bank's connections, and stated that his account would be a very large and profitable one for the bank, as he intended to embark in large transactions as a clay and brick manufacturer, at Branksea—Resolved that Colonel Waugh's wishes with regard to opening an account and receiving business accommodation from the bank be duly met." On the 22nd of March, 1855, an acceptance of Colonel Waugh's for £2,630 was discounted to him by the bank; and on the 23rd of March his drafts to the credit of that bill were honoured to the amount of £775. The result is, that the bill, minus the discount, was placed to his credit on the 22nd of March, and that his drafts on that bill, to the amount I have mentioned, were honoured on the 23rd. Between the 23rd and 28th of March inclusive, his drafts were honoured to the extent of £2,779. Against these drafts there stood at his credit—1st. The sum of £2,524 13*s.* 4*d.*, being the amount of his foresaid bills, minus the discount; and 2nd. The sum of £300 which he paid in on the 28th March. His foresaid bill was discounted and put to his credit by the authority of the directors of the bank; and the matter was brought before the directors at their first meeting on the 30th in the manner before stated. These transactions were entered into Colonel Waugh's private account with the bank in his own name. Colonel Waugh proposed to me to become his partner in the Branksea Clay Company. I think he must have done so about May, 1855. I agreed to become his partner, and the partnership was formed accordingly between us. We were the only partners in the concern. I was to help him to get the profit out of it, and to assist the manager by my advice. On the 21st May, 1855, I paid £250 to the Branksea Company's account with the bank. That was all I contributed. My share was one-half, Colonel Waugh holding the other, and I was to have half profits and bear half loss. I was a manager of the bank during the whole time that I was a partner. Colonel Waugh's private account with the bank was kept quite separate from the clay work account with the bank.

Examined by Mr. Webster—I have before me a copy of Colonel Waugh's private accounts with the London and Eastern Bank, and I see there a sum of £52,962 entered at his credit, being the amount of a promissory note by him to the bank, of date 16th January, 1857, less the sum of £1,348 6*s.* 6*d.* for discount. The bill was discounted for the purpose of closing the balance then at his debit, which was overdrawn by that amount. I see in that account an entry of a balance of £1,562 12*s.* 6*d.* against Colonel Waugh, of date 18th April, 1857. Besides this balance, Colonel Waugh was at that date indebted to the bank £52,962 in his promissory note formerly referred to. (Shown acceptances of Mr. C. Henry Carew to Colonel Waugh, and all bearing his indorsation—two for £4,000, each being dated 4th November, 1856, and two for £10,000 each, dated December 6, 1856.) These bills were discounted by Colonel Waugh at the bank, and the contents were placed to his debit; and they form liabilities to the bank by him in addition to the £52,962. They formed liabilities, however, to which Mr. C. H. Carew was a party. (Shown five borrowed notes granted by Colonel Waugh to the bank—two for £5,000 each, two for £10,000 each, and one for £68,000, and dated respectively 17th November, 23rd November, 17th December, 31st December, 1855, and 26th September, 1856, amounting altogether to £98,000.) These are all liabilities by Colonel Waugh to the bank over and above those previously mentioned. Besides his private account already mentioned, Colonel Waugh kept another account with the London and Eastern Bank, called the Beddington Estate Fund; and in March, 1857, the sum due to the bank on that account was £44,082 3*s.* 4*d.* A promissory note by Colonel Waugh for this sum had,

on the 17th November, 1856, been placed to the credit of the said Beddington Estate Fund account, to write off a debit balance of nearly that amount. There was also an acceptance by Mr. Francis Carew to Colonel Waugh for £15,000, of date 4th December, 1856, which was discounted by the bank, and placed to the Branksea Clay Company's account, to right of a previous balance. Colonel Waugh drew and endorsed that bill. The date at which it was discounted was the date of the dissolution of the company. I never, either as an individual or through the Branksea Clay Company, of which I was a partner, received any of the money drawn from the bank by Colonel Waugh, and placed to the debit of his private account. Bankrupt's attention being called to the bank ledger, and to various entries in Colonel Waugh's private account of sums debited to him as paid to the Branksea Clay Company, and one of £3,800 paid to the bankrupt, and being asked if he had any explanation to give which would reconcile these entries with his last answer, said—I never received for my personal benefit any sum through the Branksea Clay Company, though sums were at different times placed to the credit of that company, of which I was a partner. My attention being called to the second entry, "£250 ditto, ditto," I give the same answer. In reference to the third entry, "Paid J. E. Stephens £3,064 2*s.* 2*d*," that was for shares of the bank which I sold to Colonel Waugh. With regard to the next entry of the 11th June—viz., "£900 paid to Branksea Clay Company,"—I give the same answer as to the first and second. In reference to the fifth entry, "£1,000," the sixth, "£1,693 12*s.* 1*d.*," and the last, "£2,500," on 29th December, I give the same answer. With reference to the absolute negative answer preceding the answers I have now given in detail, I have now to explain that I misunderstood the general question then put to me, thinking it meant to refer to my receiving the amount for my exclusive personal benefit and without value.—Was the debt due by you and your partner in the Clay Company not diminished by each of the sums so placed at the credit of that account by transfers from the personal account of Colonel Waugh?—Yes, it was.—Was there any correspondence between you and Colonel Waugh showing the inducement which made Colonel Waugh ask you to become his partner?—I have no recollection of such correspondence, but such may have occurred.—Being shown a letter dated Saturday, 9th June, beginning "My dear Stephens," and signed "W. P. Waugh," and containing the following passage:—"For joining with you I have a return, having capital at my back to entirely liberate myself; and you for finding me such capital have your share of the mineral property, whatever it may be;" and being asked whether this statement of the inducement of Colonel Waugh making you his partner is or is not correct, and whether there was any source then in your contemplation from which the capital was to be supplied, excepting what was to be obtained from the London and Eastern Bank, of which you were the manager, said: There was. I had arranged with Colonel Waugh to advance him £6,000 on mortgage, but the intention was not carried out, owing to the long delay which took place in preparing the mortgage papers, and Colonel Waugh having in the interval become indebted to a large amount to the bank, I did not wish to hold any mortgage preferable to it.—Did you prefer letting him have £5,000 from the bank without security, to lending him £5,000 of your own?—The advances given by the bank were originally given on the security of a bond for £30,000 given by Mr. Francis Carew to Colonel Waugh, and two policies of insurance for £4,000, deposited with the bank. Colonel Waugh deposited these securities on opening an account with the bank, and it must be an error on the part of the transfer clerk if it is not mentioned in the securities' book. Mr. Webster—With

reference to the two bills for £4,000 each, discounted to Colonel Waugh in December, 1856, at that date was the bank solvent?—To my knowledge it was not insolvent. In reference to the £3,064 2*s.* 2*d.* paid to you on 10th May, 1855, on Colonel Waugh's private account, did you receive the same in cash?—The amount was transferred to my account with the bank in exchange for shares of the bank transferred by me to Colonel Waugh. Being pressed for a direct answer to the foregoing query, bankrupt said—I did not receive it in cash. Besides the several companies already mentioned, were you not also a partner with Captain Henry Fendel in a carpet company, prior to 12th March, 1857?—I was not. Were you not connected with him in any undertaking?—I don't remember being so; there was a proposed company called the Patent Carpet Company, but I did not join it, to the best of my recollection.—Shown the register-book of securities belonging to the bank, and his attention called to an entry on page 95, in which his name and that of Captain Fendel, and two others, occur in connection with the deposit of "patent rights in a new company for carpets," as being given in security for an advance of £1,000, and again asked if he was not connected with that concern), bankrupt said—Such a company was formed, but I did not join it; I was not a partner, but I was an intended partner. Had you any connection with it except as proposed partner, who did not join it?—I had not. How did you dispose of your interest in it, did you not sell an interest in it?—I do not remember doing so.

By Mr. Young—I was present at the meeting of the board of directors on the 29th of September, 1856. Mr. Morris, who became my father-in-law on the following day, was present as chairman. The other directors were also present. The minute of that meeting contains the following passage:—"The chairman having drawn the attention of the board to the remarks which had recently appeared in the *Times* newspaper relative to advances made to directors of joint-stock banks, and specified the circumstances under which he deemed that he was justified in having sought and received assistance from the bank, a similar statement was made in full by Colonel Waugh, in respect both to the advances made to himself and to the Branksea Clay Company; and he stated his intention of paying into the bank, early in November, a sum amounting to about £150,000; and the manager having afforded an explanation relative to the account of Messrs. Noakes, Chapman, and Parson, Letts's Wharf, and other commercial accounts, and having stated the amount of each, these were approved of, and the following resolution was passed:—"Resolved, that for the future no sum be advanced to any director of the bank without security of the same nature and extent as would be required from any constituent; and that, should a director be indebted in the sum of £5,000, no further loan or advance be made to him without the sanction of the weekly board." I remember that two bills of £4,000 each were discounted on the 25th November, 1856, to Colonel Waugh by the bank, and the amount placed to Colonel Waugh's credit. And on 30th December, same year, two bills of £10,000 each by Colonel Waugh were discounted, and the amount placed to his credit in the same manner. At the dates when these four bills were so discounted, Colonel Wahgh was indebted to the bank in a large amount, much exceeding £5,000. These discounts were made without the sanction of the weekly board, but with the sanction of one of the directors. The matter did not pass into the book before the directors. It was really sanctioned by the directors, though not recorded. I mean it was subsequently brought under the notice of the directors. I own I have no explanation to give why this was done in face of the resolution of 29th

September, 1856, unless it is that it was impossible to stop the account of Colonel Waugh suddenly. The director who sanctioned the discounts of £20,000 to Colonel Waugh on the 30th December, was Mr. Lattey, my partner in the watchmaking business. The director who passed the discounts of £8,000 on the 25th of November preceding was Colonel Chadwick, who had no connection with me in business. I received a letter from Colonel Waugh, dated the 5th of January, 1856, in which he writes—"My dear Sir,—I understand more bills have become due. I shall be at the bank by half-past 11 A.M. on Tuesday, the 8th, and shall feel obliged by your having ready either a bill for my signature or a stamped receipt as before signed, thereby doing away with the necessity of so many bills. I had better sign sufficient to cover up till February what may be falling due till then."—Did Colonel Waugh come to the bank on the 8th?—I do not know.—Had you bills ready for his signature, or borrowed notes?—I see from the book that he came to the bank on the 8th, and signed promissory notes of that date for £30,000, which was then discounted, and which bill was laid before the weekly board in the usual way. I wish to explain that a list of bills discounted and advances made were laid before the weekly board, as will be shown by the minutes. When I look at the minute-book of the directors, I find it does not appear that the said promissory note, or any list of the discounts and advances made, were laid before the weekly board. Colonel Waugh fled the country, to the best of my knowledge, in April last. He was then indebted to the bank to the amount of £243,000 as shown in the accountant's statement. Did you still remain manager of the bank at the time Colonel Waugh absconded?—Until April 11. I was manager of the bank from its institution. I am the owner of some heritable property in London, being a house and stable at 17, St. James's-place. I bought the house and stable separately. I purchased the house in 1853, and it cost me, with some improvements I made in that year on it, £5,040. I purchased the stables in September, 1854, at a price of £1,607 3*s.* 4*d.*, making the total amount which I paid for both house and stable, £7,107 3*s.* 4*d.* I was also proprietor of a house at Twickenham, called Gothic-lodge. I purchased the property on the 29th of November, 1855. What was the total amount of capital you expended on that house prior to the 18th of July, 1856?—I paid £160 for a hot-water apparatus that was fitted up, and I also purchased in addition some adjacent cottages, which I turned into offices; and the sum total which I spent on the property prior to the 18th of July, 1856, was £3,186 12*s.* 10*d.* At the time of the purchase the property was in very bad repair. On the 18th December, 1856, I paid the builder's account for repairs and improvements since I had the property, the sum of £2,236 13*s.* I will furnish the account to the trustee. I had two or three acres of ground attached belonging to this property. The total sum this property at Twickenham cost me was £6,423 5*s.* 10*d.* I was married 30th September, 1856, to a daughter of Mr. Morris, who was chairman of the London and Eastern Bank. On the occasion of my marriage, a marriage settlement was executed between myself, my wife, and my father-in-law, and certain marriage trustees were parties. The substance of it was that I was to settle £16,000, and my father-in-law £4,000, on my wife, and that the trustees were to have the money. The annual income of the said £16,000 was to be paid by the trustees to my wife during the marriage, and the annual income of the £4,000 was to be paid to me unless I became bankrupt, in which case it also was to go to my wife; on the death of either, the survivor was to get the income of the whole £20,000, and on the death of the survivor the whole £20,000 was to go the children. On the 27th September, 1856, I drew from the

bank £12,000, and placed it to a deposit account in the name of "Henry Morris and others," the trustees. On the 29th of September I gave Mr. J. C. Morris a cheque on my account for £4,000, which was paid the same day. I drew both these sums, and applied them in anticipation of the marriage settlement, the terms of which had been arranged. I believe the trustees got the deposit receipt for the £12,000. I am still possessed of the house and stable in St. James's-place. At the date of my marriage my father-in-law, Mr. J. C. Morris, was largely indebted to the bank. He was due £12,000 upon a borrowed note, dated 24th April, 1856, and he was also due about £2,000 in his current receipt with the bank. I had no other bank account except that kept in the name of the London and Eastern Bank. This account was one debt, which I owed at the date of my marriage. At that date I was indebted as follows:—Personal debts—(1) the foregoing account to the builder, £3,236; (2), Mr. Rochat the jeweller, £82 9*s.* 6*d.*; (3), Mr. Benson, jeweller, £17 2*s.*; (4), account to Messrs. Buckmaster, tailors, £10 9*s.*; (5), debt to Colonel M'Leod in India, £1,665; (6), debt to Captain Stephens, £450; (7), calls due to Eastern Steam Navigation Company £1,350. At the date of my marriage I was not indebted to Lord Gough for money he had lent me. He had lent me money, £8,000, before I left India. I gave a bond for that sum. I do not remember when I paid him back. Where did you pay him?—I paid him when he and I came home, in 1850. I had many transactions with Lord Gough. In my account of receipts and expenditure, I see, under date the 29th August, 1854, an entry, "Lord Gough, interest of loan of £8,000, £112 4*s.* 7*d.*" I beg to state I had money from Lord Gough to put into railway and other stock, for which I paid him interest, and that the amount of the principal so handed over to me by Lord Gough will not be found either debited or credited in my bank account. I had a deposit account for £3,500 in my own name, quite independent of the account with Mr. and Mrs. Fox.

At this stage the bankrupt retired for about ten minutes, along with his legal advisers.

The bankrupt, on his return, continued—I withdraw the answer above given, that upon the 26th of September, 1856, I had £3,500 at my credit in deposit account. At the same time that I transferred to my credit the £3,500, I also transferred to my credit the interest which had accrued thereon to that date, being £41 14*s.* 2*d.* What was your reason for transferring this money from the credit of the parties to whom it belonged to the credit of yourself, to whom it did not belong?—I must decline to answer that question. On 6th November following I retransferred the said sum of £3,500 from my own credit to the credit of the parties from whose credit it had been taken. Did you retransfer the interest?—I did not. After a minute or two the bankrupt said—That is a mistake. I wish to withdraw that last reply, and to say that I decline to answer. In my current account with the bank, under date 22nd July, 1856, there is this entry on the credit side: "Purchased 120 shares L. and E. Bank, R. Griffiths, £6,000." That entry refers to the purchase of 120 shares from Mr. Griffiths, which were transferred from his name to mine. I purchased them from him for the bank, and took the transfers in my own name. I paid Mr. Griffiths by a cheque on my bank account for £6,000, dated 22nd July, 1856; and the sum is entered to my debit of that date in my current account. Did you draw the dividends on these shares?—Yes, I did, and placed them to the credit of my account with the bank, where they now appear. The amount of the second dividend was re-transferred from my account to the interest account of the bank on 18th of February, 1857. Can you show any authority for the statement that these shares

were purchased by you for the bank?—No, I cannot. Do the bank maintain you had no authority for that purchase on their behalf?—Yes, they do; but it was understood by all the directors that these shares should be purchased from Mr. Griffiths in order to get his seat in the direction for Colonel Yates. These shares were never transferred to Colonel Yates, nor was it intended that they should be. Colonel Yates became a director in July, 1856, on the date of the purchase. He had a sufficient number of shares to qualify him to be a director. Mr. Griffiths had a claim to a seat falling vacant in the direction, and would not give it up, except on one condition, that his shares were purchased, and which it was considered expedient to do. When he sold the shares Mr. Griffiths agreed to give the dividend, which was then past due, to the purchaser. He allowed me to receive that dividend, and I did so. I can show no authority for placing that £6,000 to the credit of my account on 22nd July, 1856. With regard to the state of my liabilities to the bank as regards the trading concerns with which I was concerned at the time of my marriage, I have to state that I was jointly liable with Mr. Black for the debt due to the bank by Letts's Wharf; and Mintner and Co.; with Colonel Waugh for the debt due by the Branksea Clay Company; and with Mr. Lattey for the debt due by Lattey and Co., including Barwise and Co.

The bankrupt's examination having occupied the court continuously from Monday to Thursday evening, an adjournment took place to the following Monday. On that day, however, on the assembling of the court, the bankrupt did not make his appearance, but an application was made on his behalf for an adjournment on the ground of ill health, and to give him time to look over books and documents on which he had been unexpectedly examined.

Application, on the other hand, was made by the trustee for a warrant for his apprehension. Mr. Sheriff Hallard overruled the first application, there being no medical certificate produced, and granted a warrant to apprehend him.

In a letter to the trustee Mr. Stephens states that his health has suffered greatly from his long-continued and harassing examination. It was, he adds, unreasonable to expect he should on the instant account for the contents of the many letters, books, and documents of the bank kept by subordinate officers, and that he should have the responsibility of all their entries fixed on him. On subsequent inquiry he finds that he has made statements to his prejudice, which are acknowledged to be erroneous, and he therefore wishes ample time to look over the bank books that he may rectify and prevent erroneous statements in future, and that he may show that all the advances to Waugh were sanctioned by the directors, and that so late as February last he was assured by Colonel Yates that Waugh's security only wanted time to be worth a million.

His agent has appealed to the Court of Session against Sheriff Hallard's decision, but this does not stay execution of the warrant to apprehend.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. J. PLOWES AND CO.

A MEETING of creditors of Messrs. J. Plowes and Co., merchants, who stopped on the 7th, took place on the 28th September, when the following balance-sheet was submitted by Messrs. Coleman, Turquand, Youngs and Co., accountants:—

Statement of the Affairs of Messrs. John Plowes and Co.

Dr.

To creditors unsecured				£28,419 13 3
Creditors having recourse on Plowes, Son and Co., Rio				7,678 9 2
Liabilities on bills payable, accepted as advances on shipments to Plowes, Son and Co., Rio	£68,912 12 9			
Deduct—Expected to be retired by drawers, who will then claim on the Rio house for net proceeds of their goods	27,300 19 10			
				41,611 12 11
Deduct liabilities on bills payable drawn by Plowes, Son and Co., but which are expected to be paid by them	4,382 11 2			
Deduct liabilities on bills receivable, none of which are expected to be claimed against estate	5,031 4 5			
				£77,709 15 4

Cr.

By cash at bankers	£839 5 4			
Less amount considered specially remitted	334 14 1			
				504 11 3
By bills receivable in hand, part of which is claimed as special remittances				6,255 14 7
Debtors good				2,936 1 8
Produce in hand				981 8 7
Private property of J. H. Plowes				5,360 0 0
				£16,037 16 1

DOUBTFUL ASSETS.

By balance due from consigners of goods to Rio				4,996 0 4
Plowes, Son and Co., Rio, balance of general account	£24,276 3 5			
Estimated proceeds of goods against which advances have been made to parties who are unable to retire their draughts, estimated at sufficient to cover advances per contra	41,611 12 11			
				65,887 16 4
				£86,921 12 9

The estate thus shows a surplus contingent upon the realisation of the doubtful assets. It appears that there are two houses, one in London, consisting of Mr. J. Plowes only, and the other in Rio de Janeiro, in which besides that gentleman there are three partners. The suspension was caused by one of the latter, Mr. Westwood, incurring losses by private speculation, and secretly giving acceptances in the name of the firm to the amount of £55,000. Against this sum he has cash and shares worth about £30,000, and it is therefore hoped that the firm will suffer from these transactions to the extent only of £25,000. The liabilities of the London house

include advances by bill to consigners of goods to Rio equal in the aggregate to £68,912. Of this total £27,301 are estimated to be retired by the drawers, who will then claim the net proceeds of the sale of their consignments in Brazil. The remaining £41,611 is covered by the merchandise on which the advances have been made. The position of the concern at Rio on the 30th June, after writing off all bad debts, was as follows:—Assets £170,000, and liabilities £145,000, leaving £25,000 to the credit of capital. In answer to questions it was stated, that the irregular acceptances above mentioned fall due in August, September, October, and November of the present year. The house is in no way connected with one bearing a similar name in Buenos Ayres. After a long discussion, in the course of which a very favourable feeling was expressed towards Mr. Plowes, it was resolved to wind up under inspection.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. GEORGE CHAMBERS AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. G. Chambers and Co., fancy hardware manufacturers, who failed on the 11th September, was held on the 1st of October, when the following statement was presented by Mr. G. H. Jay, the accountant:—

Statement of the Affairs of Messrs. George Chambers and Co., September 11, 1858.

Dr.

To creditors unsecured—			
On open accounts		£2,794	2 11
On bills payable		7,571	19 7
To creditors holding security fully covered—			
Value of security	£29,786 11 6		
Less amount of their claims ...	20,445 14 1		
Surplus per contra	£9,340 17 5		
To liabilities on bills receivable, the acceptors of which have suspended payment		11,571	11 5
N.B.—Subject to any remittances that may be made in respect of goods consigned to, or in the hands of, the acceptors, and which amount at cost to £11,425 7*s.* These consignments may be so affected by the failure of the consignees, that until advices are received it is not possible to form any estimate of the extent to which this claim may be reduced.			
To liabilities on bills receivable ...	£27,946 12 4		
Not expected to rank against this estate.			
To liability on bill payable, accepted against goods shipped to the East Indies	£419 7 0		
Less estimated value of goods unsold ...	329 0 3		
		90	6 9
		£22,028	0 8

Cr.			
By cash—			
At bankers'	£10 1 6		
In hand	80 18 11		
		£91	0 5
By debtors—			
Good	... ...	462	19 2
Doubtful	£870 13 9		
Estimated at 10*s.* in the pound	... ...	435	6 10
Bad	59 6 4		
By stock—			
In Russia-row	£2,191 7 8		
At Studley	1,305 12 2		
	£3,496 19 10		
Estimated to realise	... ...	2,500	0 0
By implements in trade at Studley ...	... ...	73	0 0
Office fittings and fixtures	... ...	30	0 0
Consignments unsold	... ...	2,472	5 6
Surplus consignments, as per contra ...	... ...	9,340	17 5
Consignments in the hands of failed consignees, as per contra ...	£11,452 7 0		
		£15,405	9 4
Less creditors to be paid in full, rents, salaries, &c. ...		436	6 8
		£14,969	2 8

It was explained by Mr. Lawrance, who represented the estate, that the suspension was entirely caused by the failure of Messrs. John Plowes and Co., between whom and Mr. Chambers business connections have for several years subsisted. The liabilities of the house are stated at £22,028, and the assets at £14,969, but the former include £11,571 on bills. Had it not been for this amount a surplus of £4,500 would have been shown. It appears that Mr. Chambers, having made consignments to the firm of Messrs. Plowes and Co., at Rio de Janeiro, obtained advances upon them, and in this manner the liability legitimately arose. The goods dispatched are valued, at cost price, at £11,452, and if these shall not have been appropriated, and are favourably realised, the estate will be relieved of any claims in this respect. The books have been well kept, and the transactions conducted in a regular and business-like manner. After some discussion and explanation, it was agreed to carry out a liquidation by inspection, the creditors generally being in favour of that course.

THE ESTATE OF MESSRS. WESTRUPP AND CO.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. Westrupp, millers, of Bromley, who recently suspended, was held on the 12th of October, at the offices of Messrs. M'Leod and Stenning, when the following statement of affairs, prepared by Messrs. Quilter, Ball, Jay, and Co., was submitted and explained by Mr. W. Quilter. The figures show that the assets are equal to a dividend of 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound; and after some discussion it was agreed to accept a composition of that amount provided it be paid in cash, so soon

as the whole of the creditors shall have agreed to the arrangement. It is expected that the realization of the estate will be anticipated by the friends of Messrs. Westrupp, and that they will consequently be enabled to give effect to the terms proposed. At the close of the proceedings resolutions were passed in accordance with these arrangements.

Statement of the affairs of Messrs. E. and E. F. Westrupp, Sept. 28th, 1858.

Dr.			
To creditors unsecured—			
On open accounts			£11,124 8 7
On bills payable			2,738 8 0
To creditor holding security—			
R. M. Last	£510 0 0		
Estimated value of security	510 0 0		
To liabilities on bills receivable	489 6 9		
Expected to rank against this estate			40 7 6
			£13,903 4 1
Cr.			
By cash in hand			£375 0 0
Debtors—			
Good	£2,344 2 4		
Less 10 per cent. for collection... ...	234 2 4		
			2,110 0 0
Doubtful	550 17 8		
Estimated at			208 0 0
Bad	227 0 6		
By stock			2,856 11 2
By lease and fixtures held by creditors, as per contra	510 0 0		
By horses, implements in trade, &c.			220 0 0
			5,769 11 2
Less—Creditors to be paid in full	447 2 0		
Estimated expenses of liquidation ...	100 0 0		
			547 2 0
			£5,222 9 2

Legal Miscellany.

THE LONDON AND EASTERN BANK.—COLONEL WAUGH.

IN RE BENJAMIN FRANCIS HALLOWELL CAREW.

At the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 16th of October, Benjamin Francis Hallowell Carew, described as a cab proprietor, of Little Grove-street, Lisson-grove, applied for his certificate. His accounts contain the following items:—Debtor, unsecured creditors, £1,273; creditors holding security, £2,149; capital, £2,373; profits, £99; liabilities on acceptances, £58,640; creditor, property held by creditors, £2,050; property claimed by credi-

tors, £1,080; trade expenses, £85; house and personal expenses, £2,689. The list of creditors contains almost every class of tradesmen, including Messrs. Ball and Nash, 42, Conduit-street, £223; Messrs. Lawrie and Marner, coach-builders, £323; Messrs. Spencer and Barnes, ship-builders, Cowes, £152 (who hold as security the stores of a yacht, Maraquita, value £50); the London and Eastern Banking Corporation, £323; Mr. John Turner, silversmith, Bond-street, £82 (who holds as security the Queen's cup, valued at £100, as issued by the Ryde Regatta); Mr. Darby, pyrotechnist, £10; also a bookseller, £30; bootmaker, £73; three boat or yacht builders, £42; gun-maker, £30 (who holds as security a rifle, value £20); tobacco merchant, £22; horse dealer, £64; printseller, £26; and smaller sums to the tailor, draper, livery stable keeper, &c. Of the bankrupt's property, as held by the creditors, mention is made of a dog-cart at Lyshott; furniture, pony and chaise at Eltham; the Queen's cup; furniture at Lyshott; the yacht Maraquita, and stores, valued at £2,000; freehold cottage at Eltham, value £900; and a contingent interest in the Beddington estate; also, five valuable dogs, as claimed by Mr. Simmons, keeper to Col. Waugh, by virtue of a lien. In reference to the liabilities on acceptances in favour of Colonel Waugh, to the extent of £43,640, the bankrupt states that he is unable at present to say whether he accepted the same or not, as he did not keep any memorandum of his acceptances. Of the remaining acceptance—viz., one for £15,000, mention is made of it only as an "alleged" acceptance, and that it purported to be accepted at a time when the bankrupt was not in England, leaving it to be inferred that he believes the said bill to be a forgery. These bills are chiefly held by the London and Eastern Bank and the Oriental Bank. The bankrupt, it should be stated, is Colonel Waugh's son-in-law, the colonel having married his mother, the widow of Mr. Carew, owner of the Beddington estate. Mr. Tyrrwhit is a creditor for £1,400, holding as security the bankrupt's interest under his father's will. His father, he states, died in June, 1818, appointing William Petrie Waugh, subsequently known as Colonel Waugh, one of his trustees.

Mr. Bagley said this was the certificate meeting; and Messrs. Wilkinson and Co., saddlers, of Oxford-street, complained of the manner in which their debt had been contracted. They had known the bankrupt only as an officer in a Dragoon regiment, and dealt with him only in that character. Between the 1st and 9th of February the bankrupt bought of them two sets of brougham harness, of a most superior character, suited to the requirements of a gentleman of fortune. The charge for the harness was £44 15*s.* 6*d.*, on account of which they had received the value of £10 10*s.* only, in the form of a set of old harness, which they held at the time the order was given. Having thus dealt with the bankrupt as an officer and a gentleman, and believing that the harness had been ordered for his requirements as such, they were greatly surprised—shortly after the purchase had been effected—to hear that the bankrupt had turned cab proprietor (a laugh), and that their valuable harness had been applied as an outfit for his cab-horses. If they had believed that their harness would have been applied to so ignoble a purpose they would not have trusted the bankrupt. By dint of a little perseverance they ascertained that the bankrupt had mews near Edgware-road, and that he was there carrying on the business of a cabman. (Laughter.) To ascertain how the fast really stood, a cab was hired, and the usual ticket demanded from the driver of the name and address of the owner. The bankrupt's name was Benjamin Francis Hallowell Carew, but, as if ashamed of his new calling, a ticket was given bearing the modest name Henry Carew. They imme-

diately brought an action, to which the bankrupt pleaded "never indebted." Before the day of trial arrived Mr. Carew was gazetted a bankrupt, the petitioning creditor being his own tailor, and the alleged trading of Mr. Carew being that of a cab proprietor. Having obtained Messrs. Wilkinson and Son's harness between the 1st and 9th of February, it was afterwards ascertained that on the 17th of February the bankrupt had executed a bill of sale to Mr. Burnett over his property, consisting of cabs, &c., for a debt of £400. It now appeared that, in addition to his debts, the bankrupt had incurred liabilities on his acceptances to the enormous amount of £58,640, in behalf of Colonel Waugh—a name well known—extremely well known in this court and elsewhere, from Colonel Waugh's connexion with the London and Eastern Bank. The bankrupt's accounts now extended from February, 1857, to April, 1858, and they represented this to be the melancholy position of affairs:—There was not a farthing for his creditors. His gross profits had been £99, which were nearly wholly absorbed by trade expenses, £85—as chiefly consisting of payments for licenses—while the house and personal expenditure during the same period had been £2.680. That was the state of affairs disclosed by the very remarkable balance-sheet now furnished by Mr. Carew as a cab proprietor. It was abundantly clear that the bankruptcy had been concocted for the purpose of freeing the bankrupt from his liabilities on account of Colonel Waugh. To this his trade creditors justly objected. They protested against this process of whitewashing, and that Mr. Carew, by means of the assistance of his friend, the tailor, should obtain a certificate from this Court, and a discharge from their debts. On these general grounds he asked for a refusal of the certificate. On the special ground of his having vexatiously defended Messrs. Wilkinson and Co.'s action, and put those gentlemen to expense, he submitted that under the terms of the 256th section of the Bankruptcy Act, there must necessarily be a suspension for a given period, and that without protection. It would be a disgrace to trade—an abuse of this Court—if a certificate were granted under the circumstances laid before the Court. In the case of Sellers—a friendly bankruptcy, under which there were no assets—Mr. Commissioner Goulburn altogether refused the certificate. and the decision of the learned Commissioner had been upheld on appeal. This was a stronger case. The cab business had been merely taken up for the pupose of getting rid of the liabilities incurred on behalf of Colonel Waugh. It was imperative, he repeated, on the Court to suspend the certificate and withhold protection on the ground of the vexatious defence, but the interests of trade, the interests of public justice, required that a certificate should not in such a case be granted at all.

Mr. Rose, solicitor, deposed to having served the bankrupt with a copy of a writ, and the bankrupt having put in the false plea of "never indebted." Cross examined.—Was enabled to trace him by means of the address of Henry Carew, on the cab ticket. The bankrupt should have been found at the Sovereign-mews, in Cambridge-street, but he dodged about for some time, and they found him at last a mile or two from the mews in a timber yard. (Laughter.)

Mr. Frewer, a member of the firm of Wilkinson and Co., deposed to the bankrupt having contracted the debt for harness in the manner stated by their counsel. The harness was not at all suitable for cab horses. They ought to have harness of about half the value. If they had known that their harness was about to be used by cab horses, they would not have given credit. Cross-examined.—The bankrupt never told him that if he would call on a certain day he would pay cash.

Mr. Fonblanque addressed the Court for the bankrupt. If this were an ordinary case, there might be circumstances in it that would tell very seriously against the bankrupt, but it was entirely an exceptional case. Of the vast number of creditors, the only trade creditors who had proved a debt were Messrs. Wilkinson and Co., and that debt had been contracted under very different circumstances to those stated. The bankrupt had had the misfortune to be connected with one Waugh. Waugh had for many years lived in the most expensive manner, having the appearance of great wealth, and nearly half the world had been deceived by those appearances. He was one of the bankrupt's trustees, and the bankrupt resided with him. He stood to the bankrupt in the relation of father-in-law, and that the bankrupt should have placed in him unlimited confidence could not excite surprise. Though not connected with Waugh by blood, he was by marriage, Waugh having married his mother. The bankrupt being a young man, educated for the army, had sanguine hopes—probably too sanguine, as had turned out—and had perhaps been too much accustomed to luxury and display. He had received an allowance of £2,000 a year from Colonel Waugh during Colonel Waugh's apparent prosperity, and the bankrupt therefore had unlimited confidence in him. This confidence had been most grossly abused. On many occasions he had obtained from the bankrupt acceptances in the most off-hand way. The bankrupt was ready to depose that some of the acceptances brought forward had not been given, one of the bills bearing date when the bankrupt was not in England. Many of them were thus obtained:—Colonel Waugh, addressing the bankrupt, would say, "My dear fellow, you would really do me a great favour if you would give me your acceptance; it will be only for a day or two, and is only a matter of form." (Laughter.) The bankrupt, having unlimited confidence, was thus induced to accept for the alarming amount to which reference had been made. He had derived no benefit from these acceptances. They were not accepted as "kites," for the acceptor had not divided the proceeds, or in any way derived profit therefrom. He had actually mortgaged his own property for the benefit of Waugh, and could not have foreseen the awful crash that followed. Waugh suddenly disappeared into thin air; and the bankrupt being deprived of his customary allowance, was suddenly thrown upon the world, he could not say without the means of subsistence, but certainly reduced to the lowest necessity. He thought by entering upon some course of industry he might improve his position. He was then informed by a friend, who had had some success in that line, that he might be able to make his way by turning cab owner. (A laugh.) His career as a cavalry officer, and his acquaintance as such with horseflesh, would, it was thought, make him a suitable person for that occupation. (Titters.) He had thus really entered on the cab business for the purpose of realizing money, and not, as had been suggested, for the purpose of making himself a trader within the bankruptcy laws. With respect to Messrs. Wilkinson's debt, he was instructed, that the bankrupt wished to pay ready money, and mentioned when it should be called for. He was at that time in possession of funds. The amount was not, however, called for. Messrs. Wilkinson and Co. had thus foregone their right to ready money. The bankrupt thought at the time that his trade was going on prosperously, and he had paid away to other parties the amount which but for their own neglect would have been paid to Messrs. Wilkinson. The bankruptcy was caused by the bankrupt being sued in respect to personal debts contracted during the period of his prosperity. Certain actions were brought, and Mr. Carew having turned his attention to trade as the means of realizing something for his creditors, he was

made bankrupt. It had been suggested that the bankruptcy had been concocted, but the fact was not so. It was next said there were no assets. There were, he submitted, assets sufficient to pay all the bankrupt's debts, not including as such the liabilities on Colonel Waugh's bills. Those liabilities could never be turned into a legal debt. An action had been brought against him on the bills, but the record had been withdrawn. There was also a cottage as claimed by Colonel Waugh. Waugh had deposited the deeds of that cottage with the bank for his own benefit. He had no right to do this, and the cottage could be recovered by his assignees. There was also furniture. It clearly could not be said that there were no assets. The case of Sellers was not analogous. In that case there was a legal impossibility of assets, and it was on that ground, as carrying out the doctrine in Woollaston's case, that the judgment was given and upheld. The action had been defended under these circumstances:—Being sued for old debts, it occurred to Mr. Carew that he must become bankrupt. If he had not put in the plea and become bankrupt, individual creditors would have swept away that which rightfully belonged to the body of creditors. The assignees had thus had the benefit of the bankrupt's estate, such as it was. The bill of sale was given before the purchase of the cabs. There could not therefore have been any fraudulent preference.

Mr. Bagley would admit the accuracy of the statements in the bankrupt's favour in respect to Colonel Waugh, but must deny the accuracy of those having reference to the purchase of the harness and the transfer of the cabs.

Mr. Dangerfield deposed to the Beddington estate being worth £300,000, and that it could only be mortgaged for £160,000. The bankrupt's contingent interest in the estate was sufficient to pay his *bonâ fide* creditors 20*s.* in the pound. Is solicitor for the assignees, and no attempt had been made to sell or otherwise ascertain the value of the property.

Mr. Bagley—The result, thus far, is that Mr. Graham, the official assignee, has not received so much as one sovereign.

The Commissioner—The case had no business to be brought into this court. Suppose I give you an opportunity to get it out by ordering an adjournment, with protection in the meantime. If I am driven to a judgment, the bankrupt's folly in accepting the bills will not excuse him.

Mr. Fonblanque—He did not derive any benefit from the bills.

The Commissioner—Then he was so much the more foolish. Dragoons are very good hands at spending money, but they are not very good hands in making it. There will be an adjournment to the first Wednesday in October, 1859, to give the bankrupt an opportunity of paying his creditors 20*s.* in the pound, and superseding the bankruptcy.

Mr. Fonblanque—Your Honour's remark does not apply to the liabilities.

The Commissioner—No; I don't expect him to pay £58,000. The bankrupt may apply for a sitting before October next, on payment of 20*s.* in the pound to the other creditors who have proved their debts.

Adjournment to October, 1859, accordingly.

THE GRAVESEND AND DARTFORD BANK.—IN RE HILLS AND HILLS.

At the Court of Bankruptcy, on the 19th October, a certificate meeting in the case of R. Hills, the surviving partner in the Gravesend and Dartford Bank, took place before Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque.

Mr. G. Hillary appeared for the bankrupt: Mr. Lawrance for the assignee; and Messrs. Reed and Bagley for opposing creditors.

The estimated figures are taken from the balance-sheet. The late bankrupt, Jonathan Hill, died since the bankruptcy.

Mr. M. Lawrance asked for an adjournment.

Mr. Hillary did not oppose it, as it was required by the opposing creditors.

The statement commences June 14, 1851, and ends Dec. 13, 1851:—

Dr.				
Creditors unsecured				£36,961 14 10
Debts holding security	£14,195	14	10	
Securities of Messrs. Hills	14,143	4	9	
	£1,993	19	1	
Securities held by other parties, and in respect of which they will have right of proof	2,315	0	0	
				1,688 10 1
To creditors in respect of those securities				2,315 0 0
Liabilities on bills receivable, of which it is estimated will prove bad				2,000 0 0
Capital as of June 14, 1851				2,275 4 4
Ditto since brought in				12,940 10 11
Gross profits				11,142 4 7
				£69,318 4 9
Cr.				
Property taken by assignees				£621 17 10
Debtors, estimated to bring				4,207 1 11
Property held by creditors	£10,163	4	9	
Trade expenses				8,990 9 4
R. Hill's drawings				13,229 5 0
Deficiency, June, 1851				1,886 14 3
Losses				40,460 15 5
The above consist of — By late partner, M'Rae, £5,154 7*s.* 2*d.*; ditto on property, £208 19*s.* 6*d.*; ditto, on bad and doubtful debts, £33,097 9*s.* 9*d.*; and liabilities, bad, £2,000.				
				£69,318 4 9

Amongst the creditors of the estate are—Bank of England, £486; Barclay, Bevan and Co., £33; Commissioners of Sewers, £288; Dartford Local Board of Health, 16*s.* 6*d.*; ditto, £247; Dartford and Sevenoaks Trust, £351; Dartford and Crayford Navigation, £547; Dartford Burial Board, £63; Dartford Union (R. Hill, treasurer), £1,597; Gravesend and Milton Water Works Company, £500; Ditto, Permanent Building Society, £213; Dartford Savings Bank, £264; Gravesend and Milton Union, £551; Gravesend and Milton Water Works Company, £151; Gravesend Watch Rate, £4; London and Westminster Bank, £11 10*s.* 1*d.*; Metropolitan Sewage, £61; New Bexley Building Society, £40 18*s.* 3*d.*; Northumberland and Durham Bank, £109; Overseers of Gravesend, £73; of Milton, £6; of Northfleet and Crayford, £71; of Dartford, 16*s.* 8*d.*; of Horton Kirby, £10; of Davent, £20; of Bexley, £208; of Erith, £50; of Swanscombe, £17;

of East Wickham, £25; of Ridley, £21; of Farningham, £26; of Sutton at Hone, £9; of Eynsford, £88; of Lullingstone, £2; of Longfield, £4; of Stone, £10; of Southfleet, £54; of Kingsdown, £26; Messrs Pigou and Wilks, gunpowder manufacturers, are creditors for £135; Royal Hibernian Mining Company, London, £56; Star Steam Towing Company, £100; Savings Bank, Dartford, £163; Stone Castle Trust, Rev. G. T. Blomfield, £2 3*s*. 7*d*.

As the dealings of the bankrupts with the Commercial Bank have given rise to a good deal of remark, we give the figures of the balance-sheet in regard to them:—

Balance of account current, £234; the Commercial Bank holds the following bills discounted—W. Miskin, £500; J. Wates and others, £4,500; W. Miskin and J. Hills, £1,000; J. Wates, £1,000; Hills and Sons, £2,500; ditto, £3,000; ditto, £1,000; in respect to which the Commercial Bank holds the following securities—Title-deeds to premises of J. Hills in Gravesend £1,000; ditto of ditto in Northfleet, £1,000; ditto in Gravesend, £300; lease of the Trustees of the Gravesend and Milton Clifton Baths Company to Mr. J. Hill, of land and two houses, £400; 16 shares in the Gravesend Gas Company, £320; 14 shares in the Gravesend Water Works Company, £196; 30 shares in the Commercial Bank of London, £20 per share, £600; 40 shares in the Gravesend Gas Company, £800; 30 shares in the Gravesend Waterworks Company, £420; mortgage by Commissioners of Dartford and Crayford Navigation, £600; promissory note of the Gravesend and Milton Waterworks Company in favour of J. Hill and Son, on demand, £1,000; ditto of J. Robins, in favour of ditto, £83 18*s*. 9*d*.; ditto of W. H. Waller, three months after demand, amount due, £478; ditto of E. A. and J. Hilder, on demand, £100; ditto of E. A. Hilder, £50; ditto of ditto, £100; ditto of R. and J. Wates, £1,300; ditto of Tuffnell Southgate, £100; ditto of F. Pelton, £50, £50, £50, £50, £50, £50; J. Wates, deposit of title-deeds, £250; W. Miskin's deposit, £23 5*s*.

Alfred Russell, solicitor, Dartford, is a security creditor for £432 13*s*. 5*d*.

The following is a summary:—

Total debts, Commercial Bank	£13,734	1	5
Alfred Russell	432	13	5
	£14,166	14	10
Securities held by Commercial Bank	£9,748	11	9
Alfred Russell	414	13	0
	£10,163	4	9

The liabilities on bills receivable on the 19th of December, 1857, which bills were held by the Commercial Bank, and which are no less than 143 in number, amount to the sum of £13,782 18*s*. 2*d*.

Under the head of property are the following items:—Cheque drawn by the Australian Bank on Glyn and Co., £10.; promissory note of J. Wyatt, £134; draft by Audsley (bad), £10; draft on Ives, £5; ditto, £6; a river barge assigned, £100; cash taken at Deptford by assignee, £89; ditto at Gravesend, £179; policies of insurance for £250; paid thereon, £81; ditto for £250; premium paid, £119; furniture of the bank at Gravesend, £30.

Under the head of debtors:—Churchwarden's account, R Hills, £90;

Campbell F. Kingsdown, £288; Great Welsh Mining Company, £21; South Wales Consolidated Mining Company, £98.

As the merits of the case were not gone into, it will not be necessary to state more than the substance of the discussion, or rather conversation, which occurred. The proceedings were commenced by Mr. Lawrance, who said it would be most desirable that the services of the surviving bankrupt should be secured for the purpose of winding up the estate. He hinted that if the case were gone into, such had been the conduct of the bankrupt, that it was not improbable the certificate would be refused; a sentence which would be necessarily accompanied by the withholding of protection, and the loss, if he were put in prison, of the bankrupt's services to his creditors in getting in the estate; or, upon the other hand, supposing a sentence of refusal of the certificate to be passed, the bankrupt would probably apply for and obtain protection for twenty-one days, with the seeming purpose of appealing, but in reality for the purpose of fleeing from the country, as two bankrupts had recently done (the Messrs. Hall were probably alluded to), and which absconding had proved a very serious impediment to the satisfactory realisation of the estate, and consequently a very great loss to the creditors. The adjournment was also asked for on the ground that the case was not yet ripe for adjudication—whether the Commissioner would act upon the principle laid down in *Exparte Byfford* before the Lords Justices, or upon that laid down in *Gotch and Gotch* who were also bankers, and with which case Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque had dealt. If the bankrupt would continue to do as he had done—render all the assistance in his power to his creditors—then the Court would have it in its power, in pronouncing judgment upon his conduct as a trader, to take into consideration his conduct since, as well as before, the bankruptcy; for such were the express words of the statute. Amongst the debtors whom the bankrupt returned as bad was Mr. Henry Gibson for £16,184 14*s.* 7*d.*, a sum which appears to have been most recklessly advanced. Now, this Henry Gibson had been a bankrupt in 1856, but Messrs. Hills were so afraid that the depositors at their bank might come to know of their having lost such a sum, that they actually abstained from proving under Gibson's bankruptcy. In this matter the bankrupt's services were most necessary, for the assignees for Gibson denied that he was a debtor. Gibson was a bankrupt in Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque's Court too, and he had not yet passed his last examination, but had been ordered to furnish accounts from the date of the bankruptcy in 1856 to his surrender in 1858. It was only by bringing Hills and Gibson face to face that the real nature of the transactions between them could be ascertained. Whether Gibson owed anything or nothing it was most important to ascertain, for if Hills had set down a man as a debtor for £16,000 who owed nothing, he had committed one of the gravest offences known to the law; for to make such a statement could only be with the view of concealing a large amount of property which had been otherwise disposed of. There was also this fact, that the Commercial Bank held an equitable mortgage for £13,734, nearly the whole amount of the estate.

The Commissioner asked Mr. Graham, the official assignee, how much he had received.

Mr. Graham—£1,600.

The bank, it was said by Mr. Lawrance, was willing to refer its claim for decision to the Commissioner, but it could not be properly investigated without the bankrupt's help, for much depended on conversation and correspondence. In another case a solicitor claimed a lien upon certain title deeds to the amount of £600 or £700. That lien was claimed for

costs, and upon deeds which had been deposited by the solicitor himself at the bankers'. The bankrupt said those deeds were deposited in consideration of a specific advance, whilst the solicitor said he had a lien upon them generally. There was another case of a lady who was returned as a debtor to the estate, and who claimed to be a creditor for £1,000; and here again the assistance of the bankrupt was all important.

The Commissioner—Mr. Graham, do you consider the application for adjournment a proper one?

Mr. Graham—I certainly do.

The Commissioner—What time do you ask an adjournment for?

Mr. Lawrance—Until after the time appointed for Gibson's examination, which is in January next.

The application for adjournment, as has been already stated, was not opposed on the bankrupt's behalf by Mr. Hilleary, but was vehemently opposed by Messrs. Reed and Bagley, for opposing creditors. They alleged that the assignees had not done their duty; that this was merely an attempt really by the bankrupt, though professedly by the assignees, to stave off the evil day; that no good could come of an adjournment; that all parties were then ready, and that there was abundance in the examination already on the file to enable the Court to form a decision. It was also alleged (though it did not seem with any just reason) that the assignees were inclined to stifle all inquiry.

The Commissioner—The opposing creditors do not know the official assignees as well as I do. Without for a moment supposing that the trade assignees would do anything unjust, I feel quite sure that no official assignee in the building would be guilty of collusion with a bankrupt, or being his tool, and my knowledge extends over twenty-five years.

Mr. Lawrance—There is not the remotest, nor the slightest foundation for what the learned counsel says against the assignees, trade or official.

It was, however, reiterated by Messrs. Reed and Bagley that the assignees had neglected their duty. It was further said Gibson's history reminded one of the adventures of Sinbad the Sailor, though in what respect—whether the egg of the roc, the whale's back, or the Valley of Diamonds, was not mentioned; that Gibson was then in Court and ready to give his evidence; that the alleged debt of £16,000 was fictitious; and that the enormous amount of debts and the poverty of the assets was of such a nature as to disentitle the bankrupt to any such application as that made by the assignees. It was finally said the case was a most extraordinary and scandalous case, but in what respect it was not stated.

Mr. Lawrance warmly replied, and said the allegations made against the assignees were not only unfounded, but known to be unfounded by those who made them.

The Commissioner said, in ordinary cases the adjournment would be, as a matter of course, granted where the bankrupt did not oppose. It certainly ought to be granted, unless very specific reasons were alleged. I own I do not attach much weight or validity to the objections that have been urged. There is not the slightest reason for believing that the assignees are in collusion with the bankrupt. It does appear to me that nothing can be more reasonable than to ask that the decision upon the bankrupt's conduct should be postponed until it should be ascertained whether so large a debt as £16,000, said to be due to the estate, was properly or improperly contracted. Gibson was a bankrupt in that very Court, which was a great convenience; but it would be neither fair to him nor to the bankrupt Hills, that he, Gibson, should be examined, and the matter agitated, until the whole matter had received the fullest investigation. He did not regret the

opposition of those small creditors for whom counsel appeared; on the contrary, he thought it would be well if small creditors were more frequently active. They would have their costs of this day's meeting. As for the adjournment of the certificate, it would be fixed about a month after the last examination meeting of Gibson, and it would be more desirable that on the same day the certificates of both Hills and Gibson came on for hearing together.

The second Monday in February, 1859, was then fixed for the next meeting.

On the 22nd October the case of Messrs. Hills was again brought before Mr. Commissioner Fonblanque.

A petition had been presented by Messrs. Henry Warren and John Smith, trustees of the Gravesend Savings Bank, stating that the bankrupt Robert Hills had been treasurer of the bank up to the time of his bankruptcy, when a sum of £264 was due from him. The petitioners prayed that the payment of the sum in full might be ordered to be made out of the estate.

Mr. Bagley appeared in support of the petition.

Mr. Plews, for the assignees, opposed the application on the ground that the petitioners had not complied with the terms of the Savings Banks Acts by filing a copy of their rules with the clerk of the peace; also, that persons who had not given security, as required by the act, had been in the habit of receiving money from depositors. A further objection was, that the money had not been paid to the bankrupt as treasurer of the bank, but merely paid into the bank of Hills and Hills.

Mr. Bagley produced a return of the bank to the National Debt Office, in which the bankrupt had described himself as treasurer of the bank. The act requiring the rules to be filed with the clerk of the peace had been repealed by a recent statute.

His Honour held that the bankrupt was conclusively proved to have acted as treasurer to the bank. The other objections did not appear to be of a serious nature, and slight irregularities would not prevent an institution from being held to be within the provisions of the Savings Banks Acts. The order would be made as prayed.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF SYDNEY.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in the Commercial Bank was held on the 16th of July, 1858, at the banking-house, George-street, at twelve o'clock.

Thomas Barker, Esq., presided.

The secretary read the following report:—

Twentieth report of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney.

At a general meeting of the shareholders, held at the banking-house, on Friday, the 16th July, 1858, the following report was presented:—

The directors have much pleasure in placing before the proprietors at this, the twentieth half-yearly meeting, their report upon the operations of the bank during the half-year last past.

In the early part of this period some anxiety was felt lest the monetary and commercial troubles prevalent in Europe and America at the close of

last year, would exercise an injurious influence upon the welfare of this colony. The slight extent to which our mercantile interests have been affected by these causes affords much reason for gratification.

The net profits realised during the half-year, after deducting rebate upon current bills, and all expenses of management, &c., &c., are £24,764 0*s.* 6*d.*; undivided profits last half-year, £1,363 13*s.* 3*d.* There is thus available for division £26,127 13*s.* 9*d.*, which the directors propose to appropriate as follows:—

To payment of a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 5*s.* per share, or together, 42*s.* 6*d.* per share	£20,377	11	1
Increase of reserve fund	4,000	0	0
Profit and loss, next half-year's account	1,750	2	8
	£26,127	13	9

The reserve fund has now attained the limit indicated by the deed of settlement, viz., 20 per cent. upon the paid-up capital.

It devolves upon the proprietors to elect a director at this meeting, in place of James Edward Ebsworth, Esq., whose term of office has expired. Charles Kemp, Esq., is the only proprietor who has given notice of being a candidate.

The annual election of auditors also requires the attention of this meeting.

In conjunction with all the other banks, the practice of allowing interest on current accounts was discontinued on the 21st March.

The dividend will be payable to-morrow, the 17th instant.

THOMAS BARKER, Chairman.

COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY.

Liabilities and Assets on Wednesday, 30th June, 1858.

Dr.

To capital paid up	£239,735	14	9
Reserve	44,000	0	0
Notes in circulation	164,937	0	0
Bills payable	3,299	6	10
Deposits and other liabilities	767,643	14	7
Balances due to other banks...	28,347	4	2
Profit and loss account	33,428	7	8
	£1,281,391	8	0

Cr.

By coin	£333,677	12	0
Government securities	2,787	4	4
Bills discounted, and other debts due to the bank ...	823,872	14	7
Balances due by other banks	104,481	14	7
Bank premises, furniture, &c., &c....	16,572	2	6
	£1,281,391	8	0

Profit and Loss Account.

To rebate on bills discounted not due at this date ...	£7,300	13	11
Dividend account for payment of a dividend for past half-year, at 15 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 5*s.* per share...	20,377	11	6
Increase of reserve fund	4,000	0	0
Balance, being undivided profit carried forward to profit and loss new account	1,750	2	8
	£33,428	7	8
By amount from last half-year	£1,363	13	3
Profits for half-year ending 30th June, 1858	32,064	14	5
	£33,428	7	8

1858. *Reserve Fund.*

To balance, 30th June	£48,000	0	0
By balance, January 1st	£44,000	0	0
Transferred from profit and loss June 30th	4,000	0	0
	£48,000	0	0

ZACHARY INGOLD, Manager.

Sydney, July 6th, 1858.

We hereby certify that we have examined the securities, compared the balances, and counted the coin in the Commercial Bank, on the 30th day of June, 1858, and that we have found the same to be as specified in the balance-sheet hereunto annexed.

R. JONES,
H. GILBERT SMITH, } Auditors.

Mr. Charles Kemp was elected a director in the room of Mr. James Edward Ebsworth, whose term of office had expired.

Messrs. R. Jones and H. Gilbert Smith were re-elected auditors. A vote of thanks was awarded to the directors for their attention to the bank interests.

AUSTRALIAN JOINT-STOCK BANK.

THE half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders of this bank was held at Sydney on the 30th of July.

Mr. M. E. Murnin took the chair.

The manager read the following report :—

Report of the directors of the Australian Joint-stock Bank to the proprietors at the half-yearly general meeting, held at the bank on Friday, the 30th July, 1858.

The board of directors have to submit to the proprietors the following report of the business of the bank for the half-year ended the 30th June ultimo :—

The directors regret to acquaint the proprietors that severe losses have been sustained by the bank during the past half-year.

In the case of the swindler Miranda, whose drafts unfortunately were negotiated on Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co., London, under a fictitious credit, to the amount of £20,000, the loss, including expenses and taking credit for a small set-off, will amount to say £19,700.

There will also be other losses, principally from the insolvencies of Henry Fisher and Purkis and Lambert, amounting to about £4,800.

The accounts of the bank for the past half-year are in other respects very favourable; and the directors submit the following statement, from which it will be seen that the losses have at once been provided for out of profits and the reserve, and that a dividend has been declared at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum; after paying which there will be a surplus of £6,543 16*s.* 1*d.*, which will be carried forward to form a new reserve fund.

Balance of undivided profit from last half-year	£6,662	8	5
Reserve fund applicable to payment of losses	18,208	11	9
Net profits for past six months, after deducting rebate on current bills, and all expenses of management, are ...	18,652	15	11
Making a total of ...	£43,543	16	1
From which deduct estimated amount of loss in past six months	24,500	0	0
Leaving balance of profit at this date	19,043	16	1
Out of which the directors, in pursuance of the provisions of the deed of settlement, declare a dividend at the rate of ten per cent. per annum, and this on the paid-up capital of the bank (£250,000) will require	12,500	0	0
Leaving balance of undivided profit to be carried forward as a new reserve fund	£6,543	16	1

Since the last half-yearly meeting, branches of the bank have been opened at Ipswich—Moreton Bay, and at Braidwood, and the directors contemplate the early opening of branches at Goulburn and Yass, as already authorised by the proprietors.

The progress generally of the branch establishments of the bank is very satisfactory.

Mr. Hugh Mackay and Mr. Paul Frederick Morgan, the auditors of the company, having both proceeded to Europe since their election at the last general meeting, the board of directors appointed Mr. Ambrose Foss and Mr. Robert Garrett in their stead, *ad interim*, and it now devolves upon this meeting to elect auditors until the next half-yearly meeting.

Balance-sheet of the Australian Joint-stock Bank, 30th June, 1858.

Dr.

To capital paid up	£250,000	0	0
Notes in circulation	119,569	0	0
Deposits and other liabilities	686,073	5	9
Profit and loss	19,043	16	1
Fund set apart to meet estimated losses	24,500	0	0
Adjusting interest	3,027	2	11
	£1,102,213	4	9

Cr.

By coin	£259,157	14	9
Bullion	7	13	10
Government securities	41,698	15	4
Notes of other banks	3,825	4	8
Bank premises	27,372	2	6
Bills discounted, and other debts due to the bank ...	770,151	13	8
	£1,102,213	4	9

Profit and Loss.

Dr.

To rebate on current bills	£3,027	2	11
Fund set apart to meet estimated losses	24,500	0	0
Balance	19,043	16	1
	£46,570	19	0

Cr.

By amount brought forward	£6,682	8	5
Reserve fund	18,208	11	9
Profits for the half-year	21,679	18	0
	£46,570	19	0

Reserve Fund.

Dr.

To balance transferred to profit and loss	£18,208	11	9

Cr.

By amount brought forward	£18,208	11	9

M. E. Murnin, Chairman.
A. H. Richardson, General Manager.

Examined and found correct—
Ambrose Foss,
Robert Garrett, } Auditors.

The report was adopted.

Messrs. Foss and Garrett were elected auditors,

A vote of thanks was awarded to the board of directors, and the meeting separated.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in this company was held on the 5th August (but the report has stood over for want of space), at the London Tavern, to receive the report of the directors, to declare a dividend,

and on other business. Mr. William Nicol (chairman of the board of directors) occupied the chair, and there was a full attendance of shareholders.

The secretary read the following report and statement of accounts :—

Your directors have the satisfaction of laying before the proprietors the usual accounts and balance-sheet for the six months ending the 30th June last. These accounts, which have been submitted to the auditors, show a gross profit, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, of £101,664 14*s.*; and, after payment of current expenses at the head office, and at all the branches, interest to customers, and rebate of interest on current bills, there remains a net profit of £29,030 6*s.* 6*d.* for the half-year. Your directors have, therefore, declared the usual dividend of £5 per cent. for the six months, free of income-tax; and have carried forward to profit and loss new account the sum of £4,030 6*s.* 6*d.* The dividend will be payable at the head office, or at any of the branches, on and after Monday the 16th instant.

Dr. *Balance-sheet, June* 30, 1858.

To capital paid up	£500,000	0	0
Reserved fund	105,000	0	0
Customers' balances, &c.	4,178,283	9	7
Profit and loss balance from last account, and gross profit for the half-year	101,664	14	0
	£4,884,948	3	7

Cr.

By cash on hand and cash placed at call and at short notice	£1,522,076	16	9
Investments, viz., government, guaranteed, and other stocks and securities	505,640	1	6
Discounted bills, notes, temporary advances to customers in town and country, and advances to customers on special securities	2,729,878	15	0
Freehold premises in Lombard-street and Nicholas-lane, freehold and leasehold property at the branches, with fixtures and fittings	59,866	3	10
Interest paid to customers	24,299	11	5
Salaries and all other expenses at head office and branches, including income-tax	43,186	15	1
	£4,884,948	3	7

Dr. *Profit and Loss Account.*

To interest paid to customers	£24,299	11	5
Expenses as above	43,186	15	1
Rebate on bills not due, carried to profit and loss new account	5,148	1	0
Dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year	25,000	0	0
Balance carried forward to profit and loss new account	4,030	6	6
	£101,664	14	0

Cr.	
By balance brought forward from last account	£7,394 11 4
Gross profit for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts	94,270 2 8
	£101,664 14 0

The chairman said it became his duty to move the adoption of the report, but, before doing so, no doubt they would expect him to lay before them some short statement of the various items in that document, and he would do so as briefly as possible. The first two items were the paid-up capital and the reserve fund; and, with regard to the former, it stood at £500,000, as before; but, in accordance with a previously-expressed wish, the reserve fund had been increased: it was formerly £100,000, but now it was £105,000. The customers' balances were £4,178,283, which was a very satisfactory increase. Of those £600,000 was at credit of current account, on which little or no interest was paid, the remainder were balances. He could not help thinking that this was a most gratifying circumstance, as it showed there was every confidence in the minds of their customers of the stability of the bank. There had been 438 new accounts opened during the half-year, and the total number of accounts at present, at the head and branch offices, was 22,550. (Hear.) With all that there was some diminution in the gross profits for the half-year, although it was a circumstance which should not give them much uneasiness; for they must bear in mind that the directors had had to be very cautious, especially with customers in town, there being many parties wishing to do business with the bank who were about to embark in new undertakings. But although some of them might have been good, yet, considering the crisis through which the commercial community had just passed, the directors had turned a deaf ear to their applications, as they felt the country had not as yet recovered from the shock which had lately been given to trade. As to their customers in the country, they had required less accommodation than usual. He thought that arose from peculiar circumstances which had had their influences on the bank. But he looked on these things as entirely of an exceptional character; for they could not expect things to revive so rapidly after the recent depression. The directors had every prospect, with an abundant harvest, of a great improvement in the state of trade, and no doubt by their next meeting they would present a different result. He might say that the directors were quite ready and able, when they saw any legitimate undertaking, to do business with the parties. The amount placed at call was large, but that was owing to the care which the directors had exercised in not assisting and encouraging new undertakings. The other alterations in the accounts, as compared with the previous half-year, were very trifling, although he might except the £7,000 increase in the item respecting the buildings in Lombard-street and at the branches. They had a very flourishing branch at the West-end, at Paddington, and as it was thought expedient to remove the business to the opposite side of the street, that was done at an expense of £2,000. Another part of that increase in the item was the purchase of a house in Nicholas-lane, City, adjoining the head office of the bank. Before long, no doubt, the business of the bank would so increase that it would be necessary for the directors to come before the shareholders to ask to make some material enlargements of the premises in Lombard-street. It was with that idea that the house which offered itself in Nicholas-lane was purchased.

Referring to the amount of interest paid to customers, he wished to remark, that its smallness might be accounted for by the small rate of interest which had recently generally been paid. The salaries were much smaller than usual. The directors thought that these were sufficient to justify them in declaring the usual dividend of 5 per cent. for the half-year. (Hear, hear.) At the last meeting the general manager, in answer to a question, said that the amount of over-due bills was about £19,000, but that the loss on that sum was not expected to exceed £100. He now had the gratification of informing the meeting that the loss on those bills had not been £1. (Hear, hear.) In fact, it had been nothing as yet. There was certainly some £7,000 of them remaining; but they were all in the hands of parties who will be able to meet them entirely. (Hear, hear.) The question of the Irish estates had been referred to at the last meeting, and it was then stated that a portion of them had been sold, and the proceeds of the sale became due soon after that meeting; but he now had to inform them that some parties connected with the Tipperary Bank affair had filed a notification claiming some portion of those estates. That had certainly prevented the directors from dividing the amount for the present; but he was enabled to inform the meeting that they had taken the first legal advice, and were assured that there was no ground whatever for the claim thus set up; but no doubt it was an attempt by some of the unlucky people who had been duped to get something out of the estate of the unfortunate man Sadleir. In the meantime the money was safe in the public funds. The remaining estates belonging to Sadleir were to have been sold during the summer, but owing to some technical requirements of the Estates Court in Ireland, that sale had been prevented. By the experience, however, of a former sale, he was happy to say that they would sustain no loss from the delay. They were receiving the rents of the estates in the meantime, and he knew for a fact that November was the best month in the year for the sale of Irish estates, as there was a vast number of persons who took tours round the various parts of Ireland in the autumn only, and then such estates had fair opportunities of meeting with ready purchasers. (Hear.) A question had been asked at a former meeting as to the mortgages in Westminster. Now he was glad to say if there was any change in the state of those mortgages, as affected the bank, it certainly was for the better. As fast as the houses could be completed, they were to a great extent being readily let at good rents, and he wished them to remember that at either end of Victoria-street improvements were going on. At the one end was the Westminster Palace Hotel springing up, and an Act of Parliament was recently passed sanctioning the erection of the Pimlico terminus of the West-end Railway at the other. It could not be felt otherwise than that both these would materially tend to increase the value of the property. There was one other subject to which he wished to refer. An Act of Parliament had been passed, enabling joint-stock companies to adopt the principle of limited liability—in fact, including joint-stock banks in the list of joint-stock companies which are entitled to adopt a system of limited liability. That act had so recently passed the house—only in the last week of the session, he believed—that the directors, while they admitted its great importance, had not had time to consider it. The directors had not heard any rumour of any of the other old banks having expressed an intention to adopt the system laid down in the act; but should anything transpire showing it to be the intention of other banks to do so, the directors would consider the propriety of adopting the principle in this bank. There was no doubt it would be of great benefit to the

shareholders, but the question was, how would it affect their customers? (Hear, hear.) But those matters, however, would be more appropriately considered at the proper time. (Hear, hear.) A question had been asked, whether it was intended to call up any further capital. In answer to that, he said it was not the intention of the directors to do so. (Applause.) They had as much capital as they could use; in fact, the amount of capital was quite equal to their wants; but should they have such an increase of business as to require more capital, he felt sure the shareholders would not object to come forward. (Hear, hear.) He had nothing more to refer to; but he wished to congratulate the shareholders on the increased confidence which the bank held in the public mind; and he had no doubt, if the directors continued to manage it as they had hitherto done, and if they (the directors) received all the assistance the shareholders could give them, they would meet the proprietors with still further improvement in the condition of the affairs of the company. In conclusion, he begged to move that the report and statement of accounts be adopted; but before putting it to the meeting, he should be most happy to answer any questions which the shareholders might be desirous of asking, as the directors were most anxious to give every information. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Westropp, in reference to the purchase of the house in Nicholas-lane, wished to know if the shareholders had any control over the directors in the matter of these purchases, or whether the directors could make purchases to any extent?

The Chairman said the directors were allowed by the charter to make purchases to any extent; but he wished the meeting to remember that they came before the proprietors every six months, to render an account of the purchases they had made, and their reasons for making them.

Mr. Champion Jones (the deputy-chairman of the company) briefly seconded the adoption of the report, which was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. Cox then moved, and Mr. Green seconded, the election of Mr. F. Harrison as auditor, which was agreed to, and Mr. Harrison having briefly expressed his acknowledgments,

Mr. Green thought the meeting should not separate without expressing their sense of gratitude to the board of directors for the precautions they had taken in the management of the affairs of the bank in the trying period through which they had just passed. He should therefore move, "That the best thanks of the meeting be given to the chairman and the directors for the able manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the bank."

Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the compliment on behalf of himself and colleagues, expressed his gratification at receiving this mark of their approbation, and observed that the directors always felt deeply indebted to the proprietors for the courtesy and good feeling they invariably evinced at their meetings.

On the motion of Colonel Sparks, a vote of thanks was passed to the chairman for presiding, and the meeting separated.

BANK OF JAMAICA.

THE following is the report of the board of directors of the bank of Jamaica, presented at a half-yearly meeting of shareholders, convened pursuant to the 37th clause of the deed of settlement, at the bank in Portugal-street, on the 7th of September, 1858; Mr. Titley, president, in the chair.

The directors have now to submit to the proprietors their half-yearly report on the affairs of the bank, with statement of profits for the six months ending 30th June, 1858, also statement of debts and assets at that period.

Amount of profits for the half-year ending 30th June, 1858			£7,691	13	0
Business expenses	£2,208	9	4		
Six months' dividend at 7 per cent. per annum	2,940	0	0		
			5,148	9	4
Surplus on the half-year's business			£2,543	3	8

DEBTS.

Paid-up capital	£84,000	0	0
Circulation	62,525	16	0
Deposits and other liabilities	64,620	8	3
Reserve fund	11,958	5	10
Net profit	5,483	3	8
	£228,587	13	9

ASSETS.

Specie	£41,785	18	2
Due by London and Foreign Agents, on bills remitted ...	25,288	13	11
Due on bills discounted and bills of exchange on hand ...	131,297	8	0
Due on current accounts, judgments, mortgage and other securities	8,914	16	2
Shares which have reverted to the bank, under the 56th clause of the deed of settlement, and held for sale ...	16,053	0	0
Freehold premises	3,818	11	9
Bank premises and furniture	1,429	5	9
	£228,587	13	9

The directors have much satisfaction in placing before the shareholders the balance-sheet for the half-year ending 30th June last, showing a net profit of £5,483 3*s.* 8*d.*, after deducting all expenses, and making provision for doubtful debts. It is now proposed to declare a dividend for the six months at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, after payment of which there will remain a surplus of £2,543 3*s.* 8*d.*, applicable to the increase of the reserve fund, which will then amount to £14,501 9*s.* 6*d.* The directors who retire by rotation are Messrs. Henry Hutchings and James Derbyshire, who again offer themselves for re-election.

The chairman informed the Proprietors that the meeting was convened in accordance with the requirements of the deed of settlement, for the purpose of placing before the shareholders the directors' report for the six months ending 30th June last. He further stated with regret the absence of the manager on this occasion, owing to severe illness.

The accountant having read the report, it was agreed that it should be adopted, and printed for distribution among the shareholders.

The thanks of the meeting were passed to the manager and officers of the establishment—the mover stating that he was sincerely sorry that illness prevented the manager, who had so ably conducted the business of the

bank, from being present. The chairman, then declared a dividend for the six months, at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum; and having left the chair, thanks were tendered to the chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

THE ENCUMBERED ESTATES COURT, IRELAND.

THE concluding report of the operations of this Court, from its institution in 1849 to August last, when its commission terminated, has just been published. From this document we learn that no fewer than 4,413 petitions were presented within the nine years embraced of the labours of this Court. The number of conveyances amounted to 8,364; the number of lots sold 11,024. Now let us see what Ireland was doing during the past nine years at the great land auction room in Henrietta-street: 8,258 capitalists appeared there with their ready money to overwhelm the combined army of foreigners, avaricious of Irish soil, and great was their success, for we find in the report that the "number of English, Scotch and foreign purchasers" only amounted to 324. But probably it may be supposed that these foreigners from the other side of St. George's Channel and the Tweed, although few in number, purchased larger lots than their Irish competitors. Not so, for the report informs us that the amount of purchase-money paid by English, Scotch and foreign purchasers was only £3,160,224, while the natives contributed upwards of £20,000,000. The following shows the amount of distribution of the funds received by the commissioners:—

Gross proceeds of sale to the 31st August, 1858, as lodged in the Accountant's Office:—

By public auction in Court, by provincial auction, and by private contract, £23,161,093 6*s.* 7*d.*

This amount includes a sum of about £500,000, being interest at 5 per cent., charged to the purchasers when lodging their money after the limited time for payment thereof.

Amount distributed by order of the commissioners, in cash		£13,549,690	11 5
Ditto in stock		5,015,912	2 11
Amount of absolute credits to purchasers on foot of encumbrances vested in them, and applied with consent of commissioners in payment of their purchase-money		3,369,393	6 5
Total amounts of funds distributed		£21,934,696	0 9
Funds on hands:—			
Cash in bank	£413,368 6 11		
New Three per Cent. Stock ...	711,432 19 0		
New Three per Cent. Consols ...	101,595 19 11		
		1,226,397	5 10
		£23,161,093	6 7

NOTE.—The funds here returned as on hands are subject to be still further reduced, by

First—The amount of sums already allocated to parties, and to trustees of settlements, and the like, but where, from the deaths of the parties, or

some of them entitled thereto, or from some other cause, those sums cannot at present be paid out of Court.

Second—By amount set apart by the commissioner's fiats, on account of conflicting claims (the subject of litigation in the Court of Chancery or elsewhere not yet decided on) respecting the sum comprised in such fiats.

There is a difference between the amount realised by the sales (as taken from the sales book) and the amount lodged in the accountant's office. This difference arises from—

First, certain provisional credits having been conditionally allowed to encumbrancers who became purchasers, but which credits, not having been yet made absolute, are not returned as payments, or as credits absolutely allowed in the books of the accountant.

The new Court provided by the act of last session will commence its operations in about a fortnight. There is plenty of business for the judges, and, notwithstanding the vast amount of land which has been sold during the past nine years, many extensive estates are about to be submitted to the ordeal of the Henrietta-street hammer.

THE JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

It is stated that the joint-stock banks have it in contemplation, if they have not already decided on the point, to decline to receive further deposits at a fixed rate of interest, even below 1½ per cent. Athough definite information has not transpired to this effect, it is well known that they experience serious inconvenience from not being able to bring their resources into profitable employment, and consequently it is not improbable that they may hesitate to increase the total of this item. In connection with moderate amounts, arrangements can be made for a satisfactory allowance of interest; but on sums running up from £10,000 to £15,000 and £20,000, it has already become a question of agreement. For instance, in a case which occurred a few days ago, the offer of a very large deposit from an assurance company was accepted, not because the bank saw the prospect of being able to employ the amount at an immediate profit, but from the circumstance of its introducing new business. In this manner exceptional instances may arise, though, on the average, there is solid ground for presuming that the whole of the banks will discourage, through indirect if not by direct means, as far as they can, any further great accumulation. Of course an arrangement of this description would prove temporary if trade should make the expected progress towards revival, and might not, under some circumstances, continue in force more than a few days.

Notes of the Month.

Change in a Banking Firm.—A circular has just been issued by Messrs. Pease, of Hull, bankers, of the firm of Pease and Liddell, announcing that Mr. G. W. M. Liddell and Mr. William Liddell have ceased to be partners in the banking establishment carried on at Hull under the firm of Pease and Liddells, and at Beverley under the firm of Marshall, Pease and Liddells, and that they have taken into partnership Mr. Francis Hoare (brother of Mr. John Gurney Hoare and Mr. Joseph Hoare, of the firm of Barnet, Hoare and Co., of London, bankers), and Mr. Arthur Burton Pease; and the banks will be carried on at Hull

under the firm of "Peases, Hoare and Pease," and at Beverley under that of "Marshall, Peases and Hoare."

THE WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND.—We are glad to be able to state, in behalf of the Western Bank Relief Fund, that there have been subscribed upwards of £9,000. Additional subscriptions are expected, but we are afraid that the amount already subscribed will be scarcely equal to meet the urgency of the case in so far as widows and orphans are concerned. A sub-committee has been appointed to distribute the funds contributed, and we believe it only requires to be stated that a few hundred pounds more are necessary to aid the committee in their distribution, and by which real distress will be relieved.—*Glasgow Mail.*

LONDON AND EASTERN BANKING CORPORATION.—Vice-Chancellor Sir W. Page Wood has peremptorily ordered a call of £50 per share on all the contributors to this ill-fated concern, to be paid on the 10th of January next.

PROGRESS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The official returns of South Australia commence in 1840. In that year the entire population was only 14,610 souls, but in 1857 it had mounted up to 109,917 persons. Of course, the rise in reference to the inhabitants has not been so rapid as in the sister colony of Victoria, where the discoveries of gold drew such numbers from all parts, and even thinned materially the populatiou of South Australia. The revenue of the colony in 1840 was £30,200, whence it increased continuously until it amounted to £726,326 in 1857; while the expenditure for the last year was £664,356, giving, consequently, an excess of £61,970 of receipts over disbursements, than which fact nothing can be more satisfactory or more elucidatory of the general prosperity of the colony. So also as regards the imports and exports. In 1840 South Australia shipped colonial produce to the value of £15,650 only, and received £303,357, making, consequently, the imports more than exports, or the colony a debtor to the mother or other countries; but this state of affairs soon changed, and in 1857 she was a creditor for £121,128, the exports having amounted to £1,744,180, while the value of imports was £1,623,052. The portion of the colony under cultivation in 1840 was 2,503 acres; it is now 235,965 acres, and more than 10,000 persons are engaged in pursuits connected with the land so brought into a productive state. There are seventy flour mills in the colony, and 226 manufactories of various descriptions. Horned cattle and sheep numbered 2,386,205 in 1857, besides 26,220 horses. The three principal branches of colonial merchandise in South Australia are pastoral, agricultural and mining; and, taking the general population, with the acreage under cultivation, together with the value of the exports in 1857, there are about two acres to each individual, and the earnings were equivalent to £15 17*s.* 4*d.* for every man, woman and child. This is much in excess with the statistical results of other countries, and is good evidence both of the productiveness of the soil and the energy of the people. The Burra Burra, Kapunda, and other copper mines in the north have hitherto been the chief source of supply, but other mines now being developed, such as the North Rhine and Bon Accord, will, no doubt, augment considerably the mineral productions of the colony.

EMIGRATION.—In 1857, 212,857 persons embarked at the ports of the United Kingdom, in order to better their condition by removal to a more prosperous and a happier land. This is a large increase upon 1856 and 1855, when 176,554 and 176,807 emigrated respectively. 126,905 emigrated to the United States of America, 21,001 to Canada, &c., 61,248 to Australia, and 3,721 to other places. The emigrants included 120,279 males and 89,202 females; 3,394 emigrants appear to have been of a peculiarly epicene genus, for they are marked in the register as "not distinguished." There were 161,685 adults over 14 years of age, and 37,238 children and infants. The large sum of £593,165 was remitted by settlers in North America to their friends and

families in the United Kingdom in the year 1857; and in 1856 and 1855, the larger sums of £951,000 and £873,000 were so remitted by these saving emigrants for the relief of their families. In 1857 £59,030 was paid in Australia for the passage and outfit of emigrants from the United Kingdom under the remittance regulations.

Bank Robbery.—The Union Bank at Hinderhook, county Columbia, was robbed on the night of the 13th September of specie and bank notes to the amount of 10,000 dolls. The thieves blew open the bank vault with gunpowder. The explosion shattered the windows of the building and demolished the furniture. A reward of 2,000 dolls. was offered for the apprehension of the robbers.

Assessed Taxes.—£1,062,562 was the total amount of assessed taxes charged in the year 1856 for all the counties of England and Wales, and £97,720 for those of Scotland. In the boroughs of England and Wales the amount charged was £803,986, and in those of Scotland £56,762. This makes a grand total of £2,021,032 for the counties and boroughs of Great Britain.

Navy and Army.—A parliamentary paper has just been issued. which gives detailed accounts of the receipt and expenditure for navy and army services in the year ended the 31st of March, 1857. The expenditure for naval services was £16,568,614. Explanations follow of the causes of expenditure for various departments in excess of the estimates. The amount of expenditure for the Admiralty Office was £144,426 9*s.* 9*d.*; for Her Majesty's establishments at home, £155,172 4*s.* 4*d.*; establishments abroad, £30,773 8*s.* 5*d.* The wages of persons employed at Her Majesty's establishments at home amounted to £1,128,833 6*s.* 4*d.* The wages for establishments abroad amounted to £79,330 11*s.* 7*d.* Among the other items are these:—For balance due by the Turkish Government on the settlement by the Mixed Commission at Constantinople of the claims on the part of the English and Turkish Governments upon each other at the conclusion of the war with Russia, £8,611 9*s.* 5*d.*; on the creditor side appears the sum of £1,675 16*s.* 2*d.* for balance remaining of an advance out of the Turkish loan to meet payments ordered to be made by the Admiralty for the purchase of transports and coals for the service of the Turkish Government, the accounts for which are not finally settled. Under the head of army and militia expenditure, a sum total is given of £21,116,356 3*s.* 1*d.* for effective and non-effective services. The total pay of officers is estimated at £5,022,850 7*s.* 5*d.* The total for hospital expenses was £147,387 11*s.* 5*d.* The total for movement of troops was £307,668 10*s.* 3*d.* The total for recruiting was £76,002 8*s.* 11*d.* Under the head of miscellaneous is the sum of £114,299 14*s.* For the Turkish Contingent the amount was £398,380; for the administration of martial law, £59,542 8*s.* 9*d.* The total expenditure for the embodied militia was £994,385 10*s.* 8*d.* The amount of the supplies for the service of the troops was £3,789,853 16*s.* 2*d.* For educational and scientific branches the amount was £226,802 14*s.* 7*d.* The amount of the advance out of the army grants for the pay, &c., of regiments in India, and for other services chargeable against the East India establishment, on account of the year 1856-7, was £259,611 11*s.* 7*d.* An explanatory table is given respecting new works, alterations, and improvements, amounting to £1,000 each and upwards.

Southampton Penny Savings Bank.—This bank was opened on Monday, October 4, with 560 deposits, amounting in the aggregate to £26 0*s.* 6*d.* Such an auspicious commencement cannot fail to be an encouragement to other towns where penny banks do not exist. It may be added, that the bank opened at half-past six and closed at half-past eight p.m., during which time each depositor's number, name, and address had to be recorded in one book, his number,

initials, and deposit in two other books, and one of them (the pass-book) initialed by the receiver, and the amount of deposit entered in another book.

Tribunals of Commerce.—The Select Committee on Tribunals of Commerce, in reporting the evidence, express no opinion on the subject, but recommend the resumption of the inquiry next session. The evidence of the witnesses, Mr. D. Brown, Corr-Vander Maeren, Mr. E. Blount, Mr. H. D. Hutton, Mr. F. Lyne, and Mr. C. C. Craseman, fills a blue-book of 200 pages.

The District Bank, Newcastle-on-Tyne.—On the 7th, 8th and 9th October, the liquidators of the District Bank, Newcastle-on-Tyne, paid the first dividend of 5*s.* in the pound to the depositors in the bank. The total dividend would amount to about half a million. The payment was made in the new Town-hall.

Recall of William Gill's Sequestration.—The Lord Ordinary of the Court of Session has, upon a petition by Mr. Joseph Joel, London, recalled the sequestration lately granted to Mr. William Gill. The recall was craved on the ground, among others, of defective designation. The description the bankrupt gave of himself in his petition for sequestration was—"William Gill, sometime residing in Park-villas, Richmond, in the county of Surrey, and now residing at Tobermory, in the island of Mull and county of Argyle," omitting all reference to his chambers at Lincoln's-inn, or his house at Bayswater, during his residence in which his debts were chiefly contracted. Mr. Joel's petition for recal set forth:—1. That the bankrupt was not on the 3rd of August, when the sequestration was awarded, a person of whose estate it was competent to award sequestration. He was a native of England, and a domiciled Englishman; he was a barrister-at-law and practised as such for several years; his own residence and that of his family was in England. The whole of his funds were situated in England, and the whole of his creditors resided in that country. He resided only a few weeks in Tobermory, and he had no intention of taking up his permanent residence there. His sole object in coming to Scotland, and in taking up his residence at Tobermory, was to get the benefit of the Sequestration Act, and, if possible, to evade the measures of his creditors, and obtain protection against them. 2nd. The designation of the bankrupt, as given in the petition, and in the notices in the *Edinburgh* and *London Gazettes* which followed the award of sequestration, was not a sufficient nor a correct designation, and it was resorted to by him as a device for preventing his creditors from becoming aware of the sequestration. The selection of the remote locality of Tobermory as his residence in Scotland was also made with the view of interposing obstacles to his creditors in the prosecution of their claims. To this petition Mr. Gill lodged answers, and maintained that at the time the sequestration was awarded he was domiciled in Scotland, and subject to the jurisdiction of the Court of Session, and that, the whole requisites of the statute having been duly observed, the sequestration was properly and regularly awarded.

A further instalment has been paid under the estate of Messrs. Maitland, Ewing and Co., who stopped on the 3rd of April, making a total payment of 50 per cent. Little doubt exists that the hopes originally held out as to the ultimate liquidation will be fully realised.

Messrs. Herman, Sillem, Son and Co., merchants, who suspended in November, have announced a further dividend of 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, making a total of 15*s.* It is confidently hoped that all liabilities will ultimately be discharged in full.

Release of Mr. Bates.—Mr. Bates, the convict banker, has been released after an imprisonment of three years.

In the dissolutions of partnerships inserted in the *Gazette* of October 19th appears that of the firm of Messrs. Bromage, Snead, and Snead, bankers, of Chepstow.

THE BANK OF MANCHESTER.—The shareholders of the Bank of Manchester have just adopted unanimously the three following resolutions at the recommendation of the directors:—1. That the board be authorised to appoint one or two paid directors, one of whom at least shall devote the whole of his time to the business of the establishment. 2. That the surplus fund be capitalised; and 3. That the bank should be placed under the Limited Liability Act. The latter is indicative of confidence in the position of the bank, since its credit will in future have to depend exclusively upon the healthy character of its transactions.

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

September 25.—The Bank of Frankfort raised its rate of discount to 4 per cent.

October 5.—Announcement of the suspension of M. Duhant, of Lille, speculator in sugar, with liabilities amounting to about £200,000.

8.—The additional £2,000,000 of the Turkish Loan, offered when tenders were accepted for £1,300,000, making, with the portion of £3,000,000 previously taken, £4,300,000 out of the £5,000,000 required.

9.—The Prince of Prussia appointed Prince Regent, by decree of the King, on account of declining health.

9.—The Bank of Frankfort again raised its rate of discount from 4 to 5 per cent.

16.—The Bank of Bavaria raised its rate of discount to 5 per cent.

16.—The Bank of Prussia raised its rate of discount to 5 per cent.

18.—Suspension of Messrs. William Arnold and Sons, of Billiter-street, hemp manufacturers, with liabilities of about £8,000.

19.—Decree published at Vienna that the National Bank of Austria is, from the 1st November, to discount bills and make payments on account of public loans, with new bank notes; the old notes to be taken by the Bank at 105.

20.—Opening of the Prussian Chambers by the Prince Regent, who declared his determination to govern on constitutional principles.

25.—Announcement of the settlement of a misunderstanding between France and Portugal, relative to the seizure of a vessel belonging to France, on the plea of being engaged in the slave trade.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The only suspensions announced during the month of October were the following:—

M. Duhant, Lille, sugar speculator.
Messrs. Wm. Arnold and Sons, London, hemp manufacturers.

BANKING OBITUARY.

Sept. 24, at Brussels, Mr. Simon Salter, banker, aged 70.

Sept. 29, at Ilkley Wells, Yorkshire, Mr. J. Ravenscroft Elsey, of the Bank of England, aged 66.

Sept. 30, at Haverhill, Suffolk, Mr. John Harley Drew, manager of the London and County Bank at that place, aged 62.

Oct. 11, at his residence, Penzance, Mr. Joseph Carne, banker, aged 77.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 1858.

THE course of financial events during the month has not been important, and the discussion raised with respect to the policy pursued by the Bank directors has produced an unsettled feeling. It was supposed that when the stock of bullion reached nearly £20,000,000 that the Bank court, acting on the principle which had before distinguished their proceedings, would have reduced their terms of accommodation to 2½ per cent, especially as the rate out of doors did not exceed 2¼, with the prospect of finally receding to 2 per cent. However, before the aggregate of specie reached this point, the payment of the dividends intervened, which, with withdrawals of sovereigns on account of the Turkish loan, caused a temporary pause. It was then perceived that the foreign exchanges were taking an unfavourable direction, that the rates of discount by the German banks were advancing, and that the approaching resumption of payments by the Bank of Vienna was entailing a drain of specie. With these circumstances in view, the Court hesitated to act, and whether the proceeding shall prove correct or not, they have continued to maintain the *minimum* at 3 per cent. During this state of things, the demand for silver for remittance to the East has increased both through the position of the exchanges and the requirements necessary for the purchase of produce. Although attempts have been made to circulate prejudicial statements respecting the result of the Portuguese difficulty, no apprehension of serious consequences was entertained from the first; but it nevertheless appears that the adjustment of the question has placed that power in a humiliated condition, and exhibits the potential sway exercised by French demands. There is an abundance of money at the latest moment both in the discount market and at the Stock Exchange; three months paper is now freely discounted at 2 per cent. and six months bills at 2¼. For loans for short periods on Consols the terms are 1 to 1½ per cent.

Consols have fluctuated about 1 per cent., and the advance is equal to nearly ½ per cent. Occasional variations have occurred, and the market remains in a sensitive position, first, through political rumours, and secondly, from the adverse state of the foreign exchanges. Business has not been active, and the public have refrained from making investments at the late high prices. The government broker has purchased for a fortnight or three weeks stock to the extent of about £10,000 or £15,000 a day, which has had the effect of supporting quotations, but these operations have now been discontinued. The last few days has exhibited a reaction, and the market now presents heaviness. Exchequer bills have improved, through the investment of the surplus balances of bankers, and East India 4 per cent. debentures have been sustained through the same cause.

Business in foreign securities, although conducted on a limited scale, has exhibited some fluctuation, principally in consequence of speculative dealing. Turkish scrip, after having been negociated at 1¾ premium for the first issue, and at 3¼ premium for the second issue, has receded to ¾ premium and 1¾ premium respectively. For a moment it went down to par for the first description, but speedily recovered. Mexican, after being well supported, has gone flat, and Russian and Sardinian present heaviness. Portuguese has partially recovered, through the settlement of the dispute with France. Dutch, Brazilian and Ecuador have generally exhibited firmness, with a tendency to additional improvement.

On the whole, railway shares have exhibited an advance, though the highest quotations of the month have not been maintained. It is thought

that the traffic may yet prove favourable for the end of the year, the weather remaining satisfactory; but the operations have not been on an extensive scale, the inducement to speculation having been very limited. Indian shares do not recover, although they maintain firmness; and the market in other respects is steady. No variation of moment has occurred in French shares, but the market is tranquil with a moderate business.

Joint-stock bank shares have not suffered much alteration, and quotations will not experience great change, the dealings having been on a comparatively restricted scale. Full quotations, however, are supported, the transactions of the several establishments being conducted with prudence. Ottoman bank shares have not been sustained in consequence of the preliminary announcement of the probable formation of an Imperial State Bank, which will assume the conduct of the currency.

The following are the fluctuations in the English and Foreign Stocks and Railway Shares during the month just concluded.—

	Price on Sept. 28.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Oct. 27.
English Funds.				
Consols	97⅞-98⅛	98⅜	97⅞	98⅜-½
Exchequer bills	35*s.* p.m.	43*s.* pm.	34*s.* pm.	37*s.* to 40*s.* pm.
Foreign Stocks.				
Brazilian	—	103⅜	101⅜	103⅜
Buenos Ayres	77⅛	80	77⅛	80
Chilian	—	105½	105	104½
Dutch, 2½ per cent.	66¼	66⅜	66¼	66⅛
Mexican	21⅞	21⅞	20⅛	20
Peruvian, 4½ per cent.	90⅛	90⅜	89⅞	90⅛
Russian	111¼	112½	111¼	112¼
Spanish	46⅛	47	46	46⅜
Turkish, 6 per cent.	97½	98⅜	93½	94½
Ditto, 4 per cent.	104⅝	105⅝	104½	105
Railway Shares.				
Brighton	110	112	109½	111
Caledonian	87	89	85	85½
Eastern Counties	62½	63½	61½	62½
Great Northern	103¼	105	102	104½
Great Western	51	57	50¼	56
Lancashire and Yorkshire... ...	95½	97	94½	96
London and North Western ...	90⅝	92⅜	89⅜	90⅜
Midland	97⅝	98⅞	97	97⅜
North Staffordshire	12½	13⅜	12⅜	12⅜
South Eastern	73	75⅞	72½	74¼
South Western	95½	96½	93	93½
York, Newcastle, and Berwick ...	94½	95⅜	93½	93½
York and North Midland	76	78¼	74½	76½
East Indian...	107	108½	106¼	107
Northern of France	38½	39⅝	38⅜	38⅜

THE GRAIN TRADE.

The grain trade during the past month has been exceedingly dull, and prices have been gradually declining. The new wheat has turned out not only better in quality, but more prolific than was generally anticipated.

Although the arrivals from abroad have not been so plentiful of late, the quantities at market are quite sufficient to meet all demands. Barley has been more freely enquired for, and has had rather an upward tendency in prices. Oats and beans have been a steady sale, without any material alteration in quotations.

The *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been :—

Week ending 1858.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
Sept. 25.....	135,381	... 44 2	... 44 6	... 1 0	... 58 1
Oct. 2	124,133	... 43 2	... 44 2	... 1 0	... 57 6
„ 9	112,724	... 42 8	... 44 3	... 1 0	... 56 8
„ 16	105,383	... 42 4	... 43 9	... 1 0	... 56 4

The importations since the harvest of 1857 have been :—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total Qrs.
Sixty-one weeks ended 15th Sept. ...	4,821,818	4,724,140	9,545,958
Four weeks ended 13th Oct.	210,812	487,469	698,281
	5,032,630	5,211,609	10,244,239

And the *weekly averages* have been :—

Sixty-one weeks ended 15th September	79,000	77,000	156,000
Four weeks ended 13th October ...	52,000	122,000	174,000
Less	27,000	More 45,000	More 18,000

THE STATE OF TRADE.

Business in the manufacturing districts quiet, and the operators exhibit an increased tendency to make shipments abroad, but the merchants are not large purchasers. The departments connected with India and China show the principal activity, but those associated with Australia, Germany and America, remain languid.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

There are still some slight arrears. Correspondents will please to remember that it will be necessary to forward communications by the 20th of the month, without they involve considerations of importance. Orders and Post-office remittances are still to be directed to Messrs. Groombridge and Co., Paternoster-row. The address of the Editor, is No 8, Birchin Lane, Cornhill.

Veritas.—The quotation is one that may be relied upon.

Defendant.—It seems a hard case, but the law is strictly correct.

L. B. C.—No great advantage except the facility of circulation. The expense of wear and tear must be compensated by the accidental sacrifice of notes. The same law extended to England would have to be accompanied by the one pound circulation.

Novice.—"To goods" followed by *ditto* is the best mode. Bill or acceptance, either appears admissible; the book is called the Bill Book. According to the general custom, the end of the month is the date used, unless the accounts are delivered before. An indorsement should be on the back of a cheque or draft, except when it is an application, and then there is a proper place for it.

A Constant Reader.—Yes; the book is well worthy of perusal.

THE BANKERS' MAGAZINE;

AND

Journal of the Money Market.

DECEMBER, 1858.

THE BANKING CONNEXIONS OF JOHN SADLEIR.

THERE is every probability that some years will yet elapse before we hear the last of the Sadleir frauds, or before their final results upon innocent parties can be fully ascertained. The important suit now pending in the Irish Landed Estates Court, in which the main question at issue is, whether the London and County Joint Stock Bank, or the official manager, who is entrusted with the duty of realising the assets of the Tipperary Bank, for the benefit of the creditors of that unfortunate concern, is entitled to the proceeds of John Sadleir's Irish property, is but one phase in the course of procedure. It matters little on which side Judge Longfield gives his decision, the magnitude of the sum in litigation and the important question of character and commercial honour, which, as regards the directors of the London and County, is directly involved, will compel a resort to the highest court of appeal. Should the judgment be adverse to the claim of the official manager, the creditors of the Tipperary Bank will be deprived of assets arising from the realisation of lands purchased under favourable circumstances, through the Encumbered Estates Commission, at a cost of £125,500, and now considerably increased in value, while the defrauded shareholders, whose money, or rather the money of their customers, was unquestionably the means by which those lands were acquired by John Sadleir, will have their estate diminished and their personal liability increased by the amount which the property produces in the market. If, on the other hand, it go against the London and County, the effect will be not only to inflict upon that institution a loss which must seriously interfere with the dividends of its proprietors for

some time to come, but to stamp its directors with having engaged with John Sadleir in a conspiracy to cheat the Tipperary Bank, in order to protect themselves from the condemnation of their own shareholders for having allowed their chairman to help himself *ad libitum* out of the bank till.

So far as the case has gone the weight of evidence appears to be in favour of the London and County. It appears that, trusting to the reputed wealth of their chairman, they had—whether wisely or not may fairly be left to their own shareholders to determine—permitted him to draw upon the bank, from time to time, as he required money. They opened a credit in his favour to the extent of £50,000, but the numerous speculative transactions in which he was engaged speedily swallowed up that. Still he went on drawing, and still the bank continued to honour his drafts. In this way his debt had run up at the beginning of the year, 1855, to considerably over £200,000. His co-directors, who had previously remonstrated and urged upon him, under the threat of an open rupture, to reduce his liabilities to the £50,000, now thought it necessary to refuse further advances. Hitherto he had been in the habit of obtaining remittances from his brother James Sadleir, the chairman and managing director of the Tipperary Bank, of which John was also a director, in twenty-one-day drafts upon Glyn's, drawn in his favour, or in favour of others with whom he and his brother had transactions; these were paid into the London and County, and discounted on the instant. Finding that further credits were impossible without security, he makes an application in March, 1855, to the bank, of which he was the chief director, to discount the acceptance of the Tipperary Bank for £20,000 at two months, which they agreed to do. There was one little difficulty in the way; he had not the acceptance, nor had the Tipperary Bank any value in their hands of his to justify them in giving it. But this was by no means a novel state of things. He had had drafts and acceptances from the Tipperary Bank without value times out of number, and never having been refused before, had no reason to expect any objection would be made in this instance. But so it was, his brother James, whether by previous arrangement between them or not will probably never be known, absolutely refused either to accept the £20,000 bill or to honour John's cheque upon the Tipperary Bank for £10,500, which was a part of the same request, accompanying the refusal by accusations of swindling and villany, conveyed in anything but fraternal terms. A few days afterwards, in reply to another communication from John Sadleir upon the same subject, James

writes to his brother again, and after telling him that nothing could be more roguish or disgraceful than his conduct, intimates that upon a legal authority being executed to him and certain other persons named to sell all the landed property belonging to John Sadleir as they might think fit in discharge of his debts to the Tipperary Bank, stated at £170,000, the cheque would be honoured and the acceptance given. In consequence of this demand—the need for the money being extreme—the authority for the sale of the estates was given in favour of James Sadleir and Robert Keating, one of the directors of the London and County, who was, however, not only not the person indicated by James, but one to whom in his letter he specially objected as a trustee, on the ground that he would probably soon have to meet pressing liabilities himself. But although the money was paid, and the acceptance forwarded and discounted in due course, the formal deed conveying the estates was never executed. There was a memorandum of an agreement to execute the conveyance, but nothing more, and the studious care with which that agreement was kept in the back-ground in all the subsequent proceedings, and the otherwise unaccountable preservation of the two denunciatory letters which preceded it, would lead to the inference that it was obtained, not with any view of securing the Tipperary Bank, but to secure James Sadleir as against his own shareholders, should they from any unforeseen circumstance become prematurely informed of the manner in which he was handing over their money to his brother.

Not many months passed over before John Sadleir's pecuniary embarrassments again assumed a threatening aspect. Applications for accommodation were renewed, and this time the amount required was something enormous. The bank had, about a month previous to this demand, struck the balance of their chairman's liabilities to them at £242,500, and arranged to let it stand against him as a loan bearing 5 per cent. interest, they holding, as it appears they had done from the first commencement of these transactions, the title deeds of his Irish estates as a sort of collateral security. But the money now required, £95,000, was not for the purposes of John Sadleir exclusively. The advances made by James from the funds of the Tipperary Bank had perilled that institution, and it was necessary to raise money to keep it afloat, and that without delay. Accordingly the applicant in this instance was James, acting in the double capacity of agent for his brother and managing director of the Tipperary Bank. His representations to the London and County board were successful; but in consenting to advance the £95,000, they referred it to a committee of their own body

to determine the conditions upon which the loan should be granted. That committee very naturally considered that as the pecuniary dealings of the two brothers were so intimately mixed up, they ought to insist upon the joint security of a power of sale over John Sadleir's property, and a guarantee upon the assets of the Tipperary Bank formally executed by its manager, and confirmed by a resolution of its board of directors, for the entire amount due to them, which now exceeded £300,000. These conditions were proposed and accepted. The guarantee was given and confirmed (whether that confirmation was in all respects *en règle*, is a point of difference between the parties to the suit); the deed conveying the estates to certain trustees named, with an absolute power of sale was executed; the money was paid over; and so far the transaction was concluded.

The grounds upon which the official manager, acting for the creditors and shareholders of the now defunct Tipperary Bank, is seeking to deprive the London and County of any benefit that may arise from the guarantee or from the proceeds of the estates are these: that they had notice of the previous agreement wherein John Sadleir bound himself to execute the power of sale to the trustees of the Tipperary Bank; the insufficiency of the instrument under which they claim; and, lastly, that certain of the directors and solicitors of the London and County by whom the agreement with the two Sadleirs was entered into on the part of that bank, were so mixed up with the fraudulent acts of their chairman, as against the Tipperary Bank, as to disentitle the institution they represent from claiming under the deeds which they hold as security for the money they have advanced. With regard to the allegation of notice, nothing like proof has as yet been brought forward in support of it. This part of the official manager's case rests wholly upon the hypothesis that as Keating, one of the London and County directors, was named in the agreement as one of the proposed trustees, he knew that the agreement existed, and that through him the board must have been acquainted with the facts. But the formal deed never having been executed, the trust was never legally accepted, and for aught that appears to the contrary, Keating may never have known that he was selected to act on behalf of the Tipperary Bank in the matter. But there can be very little doubt that the agreement was a mere subterfuge—a document concocted between the two Sadleirs to deceive the Tipperary Bank shareholders, and in order that James, if he were questioned about the advances he was continually making to his brother, might

have something to show in the way of security. The object of both John and James was to discount the credit which the possession of these extensive estates conferred, on all sides and in every quarter; but the London bank being conducted upon a better and more business-like system than its cotemporary at Clonmel, required the possession of the deeds in the first instance, and afterwards a regularly executed power of sale to guarantee them against ultimate loss. The argument as to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the instrument—the question of notice being disposed of no longer remains, seeing that all the formalities of execution, attestation and registration are not disputed. Again, with regard to the third ground relied upon by the Tipperary Bank, the complicity of certain of the directors and officers of the London and County in the fraudulent acts of the chairman, even were it true, of which proof is wanting, it could have no effect as against the act of the board, generally acting *bonâ fide* and legally for the advantage of the shareholders they represented.

The laches is undoubtedly with those who acted for the Tipperary Bank, and however hard it may be that the unfortunate creditors and shareholders of that mismanaged institution should suffer from what seems to be but a mere formal omission, it must be recollected that had they properly looked after their own affairs, they would not have placed it in the power of any manager or director to rob them as they were robbed by the Sadleirs; and more especially it must be recollected, that it was mainly through the readiness with which John Sadleir obtained money from their bank without security, and almost without inquiry, that he was enabled to impose upon the moneyed world of London, and to perpetrate those villanies which have resulted in the ruin of hundreds of innocent victims and his own untimely end.

RUSSIAN TRADE FAIRS.

(Continued from "Bankers' Magazine," p.p. 782.)

Like the proscribed race to which Peter likened them, the Russian merchants abound in artifices by which to palm off their goods on an unsuspecting customer. At any of the stalls at these fairs we find the merchant bowing to his inquirer, lowering his cap, affecting to expose the very best of his stock, praying and conjuring for a preference, willing to entertain with parenthetical outbursts of droll humour, and denouncing all other "merchants" as cheats. The volubility of a Muscovite salesman scarcely allows the purchaser to put in a word. The

price imposed is told over and over again, and all the saints in heaven are called on to witness that not one copeck can be abated from it without certain and irremediable loss. Nevertheless, the merchant asks four or five times the amount that would furnish a very respectable profit. If you offer him a third or a fourth of the amount, he is neither offended nor discouraged. Every man for himself and God for all, is a motto rendered and applied in a most selfish sense in all the trading transactions that take place throughout the length and breadth of Russia. The Russians have not yet come up to a proper appreciation of the value of keeping good faith. In the way of trade conducted amidst ever-shifting masses of population, he seizes what he can get. We speak, of course, chiefly of the transactions carried on at these fairs by the class of *petits marchands*, and who do not extend their views beyond ordinary traffic. The large mercantile houses at St. Petersburgh, Odessa, and elsewhere, have an established reputation for probity. The commerce of Russia, however, as well as all large transactions with the interior, is almost entirely left to be conducted by foreigners; and although the sons of modern merchants are likely to be more enlightened than their fathers—though following an imitative mode of life, and cherishing the Muscovite disposition to assumption—they learn to speak English, French, and German, shave their chins, wear Parisian hats for kafftans, adopt the cravat, and renounce more or less the national costume, they are likely, for some time to come, to occupy a subordinate position in carrying forward the vast interior trade.

In examining the Russian articles of fabrication exposed at these fairs, we are struck by their flimsy character and mere superficial excellence. These works of art are made to sell and nothing more. They are indicative, too, in no far-fetched sense, of the character of those who provide them. The manufactured table has a brilliant polish, the pieces of a cabinet are joined with precision, if not with firmness, the veins of wood run in the right direction, and this is, perhaps, the best that can be said of the two articles. Every work coming from the hands of the Russian artizan is quickly, because badly done. One reason for this superficiality is to be found in the conditions under which Russian artizans have hitherto laboured. They have usually belonged to the class of peasant serfs, and arrived by permission at a city where they begin to exercise their craft, in the same spirit of abject submission to the direction of a superior which directed their course thither. Accustomed to assume an appearance of activity, in order to avoid bad treatment when under the seignorial eye, they regard the public

in the same light; and applying as little labour as possible, bestow an appearance of finish to their works well calculated to deceive. The Russian artizan neither procures the best material nor works it to the best advantage. As for capital, all he has to advance on the material is the capital of his hands. He seeks to get a quick profit, and to turn over his gains as often as possible. The beauty of form, the suggestions of taste, rather than any provision for utility, guide him in his work. The abolition of serfdom will, no doubt, in time work its proper effect on the Russian artizan. Freed from the necessity of paying to his lord large sums imposed on his productions—no longer being fearful of his workshop being entered at any moment by those sent to overlook him, he will, no doubt, cease from mere sham industry and become more practical. There is nothing like personal liberty—the absence of threatened spoliations—to bring about a change in this respect. The Russian workman, undisciplined in mind, and with primitive manners and habits, only at present dreams of the perfection of art, without looking to its foundations; and so long only as a low price is given, and foreign names serve as a sufficient talisman with which the merchant may palm off his wares, he will be indifferent to the quality of his work. At present, all over Russia, the resorter to fairs is in danger of buying up what is second-hand for new. The establishments set up by a large number of merchants in combination, for turning out articles of furniture, of which one cannot sufficiently admire the exterior elegance, are vast impositions. No sooner is the piece of furniture put to use than it is found to have already been used, and by oils and dyes and polish to have been made to assume the appearance of a new article. The spirit of traffic in Russia needs enlightenment; so much as exists appears to be indigenous, and to be little affected by views which govern transactions in the West. It must, perhaps, continue so, so long as the streams of enterprise are so disunited, so much left to the individual, so little to the operative influence of public opinion.

The route taken by the merchants who find their way from foreign countries to the chief Russian fairs, is of no very great concern in its direct relation to our topic. Still, in tracing their pathways, frequently circuitous, no little information may be acquired respecting the nature and effect of the influences, political as well as commercial, which affect the interior trade of Russia. Although it may fairly be inferred from relative geographical position, that the commerce of New Russia is entirely under the influence of the markets of the Archipelago

and the Mediterranean, yet the merchants of Southern Russia have hitherto preferred to lay in their stocks in the Baltic rather than in the Black Sea; and the Armenians and Jews, who thread every avenue of Asia, not unfrequently in proceeding by way of Persia and Turkey take Germany in their route, and pay a visit to the fair at Leipsic before entering the Russian possessions. It is not only that the Armenians, who adopt every means in their power to avoid risking their capital, prefer land carriage to sea risks, but that they are supplied by the manufactures of Northern Russia with articles that serve them for barter in the southern portions of the empire. The Armenian seldom errs in his calculations, which extend to the most trifling minutiæ. The route he takes cannot be improved upon, so far as individual venture is concerned. Russia has rendered it an easy matter to her merchants to trade with Persia and the transcaucasian provinces; her merchandise, after being conveyed from Nigeni Novgorod down the Wolga to Astracan, is thence conveyed by sea to some southern port in the Caspian whence Tiflis or Tauris may be reached in a few days. But she is far from being so accessible to a return trade, and the merchants are thus seriously restricted in their operations. Commerce has been sacrificed by Russia to political views. This policy, in leading us to look for transcaucasian ports for our own productions, has enabled people with whom Russia had the most intimate intercourse to judge of the cheapness of foreign over Russian merchandise. Russian articles of manufacture, whether consisting of trunks, hardware, earthenware, china, glass, nankeens or green printed calicoes, have been brought less and less into demand beyond her own borders. In the article of iron alone would she seem to excel us; but in this she is outwitted, for the Russian brand is attached to the English article, which costs seven or eight copecks less per pound, and is of inferior quality, and so, on the score of price, obtains a more ready sale, thus virtually excluding Russian iron from the markets of Trebizond. It is not to be questioned that the want of proper markets rather than sufficient outlets has materially retarded the trade of Southern Russia. The German colonists have been compelled to carry their wool to Moscow to find a market. There may be some advantage in the process by which the productions of Southern Russia, always excepting grain and shipments of rape seed and hides, are turned back upon herself; but we can view with nothing like commendation the spirit of restriction which the Government has exercised over the transit routes.

The progress of industrial development in Russia, the in-

creased demand for foreign merchandise, the enlarged magnitude of the internal trade, requires a greater amount of specie than was formerly needed for the purpose of upholding trading and commercial relations. The reduction which the price of corn, the principal article of export, has recently undergone in the markets of the world, has tended to limit the receipts of Russia from other southern exports, and this, added to the influence of the late financial crisis, has necessitated, on the part of Russian merchants, the greatest sacrifices to overcome the disadvantages of this highly unfavourable juncture. We may here remark, that the financial epidemic that lately occurred in Russia bore many indications of similarity, so far as external phases went, to that which attended the crisis in the United States. In both countries, the epidemic would seem to have taken its origin from the very abundance of bank notes. With Russia the principal reason for embarrassment was a deficiency of gold and silver in her exchanges—a deficiency which her notes could never make up. The trade of Russia is still suffering from what has been appropriately termed a prolonged monetary revulsion. There is at present in circulation throughout the empire 689 million paper roubles, an amount far too great a disproportion with the coinage at her command. Add to this, that the influence of the late financial crisis still exists, and that the comparatively sudden change in the value of notes has affected, to an immense extent, the internal trade so dependent on the nicest and most elaborate calculations. Latterly vast losses have been incurred by the depreciation of paper roubles; for in the settlement of accounts opened previously to this depreciation they must be accepted at their nominal value. Owing to the compulsory conditions of acceptance in such cases, it is no wonder that serious diminutions should have taken place in the fortunes of many of the Russian merchants. The late destruction by the government of sixty-six million of paper roubles has done little or nothing to reinstate confidence. Constantly recurring events go to prove that in the large issues of paper money made during the last war, the government extended its home credit to the utmost limit consistent with its own safety; the people have been tempted, for the first time, to mistrust imperial honour; and that tie of veneration by which, more than anything else, unity of national action has been maintained, has been sensibly weakened. It has been discovered that gold is wanting in the banks and the counting-houses of the merchants, and that paper money of an equal nominal amount does not suffice to make it good. Five roubles seventy copecks is the lowest price at which the

half-imperial is to be obtained. Concurrently with this depreciation in paper money and this want of specie, every article of sale in Russia is rising in price. The alternations of the currency suspend accustomed operations in trade, divert the streams of intercourse, and shift the channels of enterprise. Those who contracted large debts previous to the commencement of the crisis would seem alone to have been benefited. Not many steps further will have to be taken before the country will suffer from all the disastrous effects following from a dominant idea, on the part of the people, of the virtual insolvency of the empire. One cannot fail to anticipate, from the prolonged and restless alternations of Russian currency—those troubled waves that course from one quarter of the empire to another, impelled by a thousand artificial influences—a liberalising of those conditions by which foreign capital, introducing a higher system of combination and a superior mode of distribution, so far as concerns the resources of Russia, may be invited, and the present primitive mode of dealing as between individuals only, without reference to the machinery which modern enterprise has set in motion, may be partially superseded, giving way to more uniform prices, and providing for more equable returns. In our transactions in the markets of Trebizond, to which we resorted when Russia had closed Redout Kale, we have shown to Russia how little of a political character need attach to our commercial dealings, and the sooner that she abandons in her policy that zealous spirit which, while it would grasp all attainable advantages, employs itself in seeking to bar the progress in the same direction of all other powers than herself, the better will it be for her people and the more secure for her dominion if this is to be founded, as it ultimately must be, on considerations of material interests.

COINING TURKISH PIASTRES.

On the 13th October, at the Birmingham Court of quarter sessions, before Mr. M. D. Hill, the recorder, Antonio Calvocoressi and Thomas Moss surrendered to their bail on an indictment charging them on the first count with unlawfully making false and counterfeit copper coin, intended to resemble Turkish piastres; and in the second count, with conspiracy to commit the same offence. These counts were set out in various other forms. Mr. Adams (with whom was Mr. Motteram) was for the prosecution; and Mr. Serjeant Ballantine (specially retained) and Mr. O'Brien defended the accused.

On being formally arraigned, the defendants pleaded "Not Guilty," and

Mr. Serjeant Ballantine then intimated to the court that Calvocoressi being a foreigner, had a right to be tried by a mixed jury, consisting of six Englishmen and six foreigners, and that he intended to claim his right. It appeared, however, that no foreigners had been summoned; and, after some discussion, it was decided to go on with the case against Mr. Moss, the trial of Mr. Calvocoressi being postponed until next sessions.

Mr. Adams then proceeded to place the facts of the case against Mr. Moss before the jury. Before doing so, however, he explained that the indictment against the defendant was framed upon the 43rd of George III., cap. 139, sec. 3, which rendered the surreptitious making of foreign coin a misdemeanor. He also pointed out that the Turkish piastre, which was made of copper, was regulated in value by the rate of exchange; but 100 of them might be taken as representing a pound sterling. The Turkish Government, which had for some years been labouring under financial difficulties, had recently been engaged in endeavouring to restore the proper standard of its currency by calling in their paper issues, and substituting the metallic medium. This being so, the course which the Government was taking must restore the value of the copper money of the country to its proper standard. That value was not of an intrinsic but of a representative character, and that value would be so much increased by the steps the Government of the country were taking as to render the manufacture and exportation of the coins a very profitable undertaking. Mr. Adams then proceeded to narrate the facts of the case, and to call witnesses for the prosecution.

Mr. M'Neill, clerk to Messrs. Wood and Son, merchants, Birmingham, proved that Mr. Moss, whom he had long known in his capacity of clerk and buyer to Messrs. Otho Hamson and Co., had, accompanied by Mr. Calvocoressi, called at Mr. Wood's warehouse on the 2nd of March; that something was said about getting "tokens," which turned out to be Turkish piastres, manufactured; of witness taking them to Messrs. Heaton's and to Mr. Dowler's, and of these firms declining to have anything to do with the transaction. He also proved receiving the following letter:—

"Manchester, March 10, 1858.

"Messrs. William Wood and Sons.—Gentlemen,—Our friend, Mr. Calvocoressi, is anxious to know if you can do anything in the matter for which we called on you last week (the sample we left with you), as he has had another communication from abroad respecting it. We shall be glad to hear from you. Gentlemen, yours very respectfully, pr. pro. Otho Hamson and Co. "Thomas Moss."

The witness likewise spoke to a subsequent visit paid to Birmingham by Mr. Calvocoressi and another foreigner, whose name he (witness) did not know; of his accompanying them to Mr. Dipple's (where the coins were made), and of obtaining a written order from Mr. Calvocoressi upon Mr. Dipple to make some coins for the dies he had made. On cross-examination, he stated that Mr. Moss never wished secrecy to be exercised when he came to Messrs. Wood's. He heard nothing of Mr. Moss after the 10th of March, and he appeared after introducing Mr. Calvocoressi to have had nothing more whatever to do with him. He (witness) did not think there was anything illegal about the transaction, or he would have had nothing to do with it. He believed the reputation of Mr. Moss always stood high as a commercial representative.

Mr. William Wood stated that he accompanied both the defendants to Messrs. Heaton's, when Mr. Heaton refused to accept an order unless they

had authority to make the coins, and showed them the act of Parliament applicable to the case, and the penalties attached. He subsequently accompanied them to Mr. Dowler's, who also declined, when Mr. Calvocoressi asked him whether they could not be made secretly, and received a reply in the negative, Mr. Moss then said, "You see you must get an authority;" to which Mr. Calvocoressi rejoined, "Oh, that is easily done." The firm to which he (witness) belonged would have had no transactions with Mr. Calvocoressi if he had not been introduced by Mr. Moss, as the representative of Messrs. Otho Hamson and Co. On cross-examination, the witness said that if the defendants had given Messrs. Heaton an order he should have considered himself entitled to a merchant's commission, but he regarded the matter at an end when they parted. He had known Mr. Moss for many years. Mr. Dipple's terms were lower than Messrs. Heaton's, and that was what he meant by the expression "advantageous terms" in his letter to Messrs. Hamson and Co. He received a commission of 2½ per cent. on the copper which was purchased from Messrs. Crawley and Co.

Mr. George Heaton detailed the conversations which occurred when the defendants, accompanied by Mr. Wood, called upon him. He declined to receive their order unless they had the authority of the Turkish Government, and showed them the Act of Parliament.

The purchase of the copper for the coins from Messrs. Crawley and its subsequent rolling for Mr. Dipple, having been proved, Mr. Dipple deposed to the manufacture of the dies for Mr. Calvocoressi, and the striking and forwarding of the coins to him at Manchester. He also stated that when he went to Manchester to see Calvocoressi he saw Mr. Moss, but no conversation took place between them upon the subject of the coins; indeed, he was not aware that Mr. Moss knew anything about it. On being cross-examined he said that not a word passed to indicate that Mr. Moss had the slightest knowledge of his (Mr. Dipple's) business. Neither Mr. Wood nor Mr. M'Neill intimated that there was any illegality in the matter. It was mentioned that Mr. Calvocoressi had applied to two other parties; but nothing was said about an Act of Parliament, all that passed being that there was some risk, and that there was a doubt as to the legality. In answer to the Court, Mr. Dipple stated that Mr. M'Neill, on behalf of Messrs. Wood, declined to have anything to do with the transmission of the coins to Mr. Calvocoressi, on the ground that they would make no profit on the transaction.

Mr. Dowler stated that Mr. Moss and, he believed, the other defendant, called upon him, when a coin was produced which Mr. Moss informed him was an Egyptian coin. Witness told them he could do nothing without authority, when Mr. Moss, who took the principal part in the conversation, asked if it could not be done without being known. He (witness) said it could not, and Mr. Wood remarked that most likely it would be in the papers next day, that Mr. Dowler had a large contract from the Turkish Government. Mr. Moss again urged the witness to take the order in hand, but he declined. On being cross-examined, Mr. Dowler said that the words used by Mr. Moss were, "Could it not be done without its being publicly known?"

Mr. Otho Hamson said he believed that the letter of the 10th of March was in Mr. Moss's handwriting. He was not aware of any transactions in copper with Messrs. Wood. He had heard of a letter sent by Messrs. Wood to his firm, and had directed Mr. Moss to look in the letter-book for it; but he replied that he could not find it. Mr. Moss had no authority to hand to Mr. Calvocoressi any letters addressed to the firm of Hamson

and Co. When he directed Mr. Moss to look for the copy of the letter, he replied that he had had no letters on the business. Mr. Moss managed the business of the firm when witness was abroad, and this letter was written while he was away. On cross-examination, Mr. Hamson stated that Mr. Calvocoressi lived in the same building, and that he considered him a respectable man. Mr. Moss had been with witness for five years. He always found him honest and trustworthy; and if he were in witness's employ now, he should have confidence in him. Mr. Moss had told him that the affair was out of his hands and out of the hands of the firm, and that he had given up the letters to Mr. Calvocoressi. Taking Mr. Moss's opinion, that the matter had nothing to do with his (witness's) concern, he had a right to give up the letters. Witness believed that one was addressed to Mr. Calvocoressi under cover to his firm. In answer to questions from the Court, Mr. Hamson said he had never heard in the course of business of correspondence addressed in reply to letters written by procuration from one firm being given up to a third party. There was no concealment on the part of the defendant when he called his attention to the matter. Supposing there had been nothing questionable on the part of Calvocoressi, witness's firm would have derived no profit from these transactions. The letter of the 10th of March was written without his knowledge.

The Recorder—Look at this letter (the same letter). Is that such a letter as should be written?—Witness—I did not sanction that letter.—Is it a letter in due course of business?—No.

Superintendent Glossop deposed to the arrest of Mr. Moss.

Mr. Wood was recalled. He said he felt certain that the person who asked Mr. Dowler whether the coining could not be done in a secret way was Mr. Calvocoressi.

Mr. Hamson was also recalled, and in reply to the Recorder stated that he could not say that the expenses of Mr. Moss to Birmingham were charged to his firm. He believed that they were not, as he had not seen them in the books. It was quite right for a clerk, in his absence, to recommend to their correspondents a person on the responsibility of the house.

Abdallah Effendi, Turkish Consul at Manchester, then proved that the coins were counterfeit; and this concluded the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Serjeant Ballantine then addressed the jury at great length, dwelling upon the high character of the defendant, and upon the open way in which he had engaged in that part of the transaction with which he was connected. The learned counsel contended that the defendant had merely introduced Calvocoressi in the ordinary way of business; that the very absence of all concealment was the best evidence that he had no guilty knowledge of the affair; and that there was nothing whatever to show that Mr. Moss knew anything regarding the making of the coin by Mr. Dipple, or had the remotest connection with the affair after he had left Birmingham.

After the learned Recorder had summed up, the jury retired, and, after an absence of about half an hour, returned into court with a verdict of "Guilty" on the second count—that relating to conspiracy; at the same time recommending the defendant to mercy on the ground of the excellent character he had long sustained.

The Recorder said that was a very good ground of recommendation, and that he should not pass judgment then, if respite was prayed.

Mr. Adams left the matter in the hands of the Court; and Serjeant Ballantine having prayed for respite, his application was granted, and judgment was accordingly respited until next session.

The defendant was then liberated on bail, as was also Mr. Calvocoressi.

There can be no doubt that a most extensive conspiracy existed for the purpose of coining these Turkish piastres, as in addition to the persons above named in custody at Birmingham, two persons named Antoine Aime Husson and Husson Beverdy, father and son, are in custody in London, and are at present under remand at the Southwark Police Court, charged with being implicated; and another person named Boeserrolle has been apprehended at Alexandria, on a charge of being implicated in the conspiracy, and is *en route* to this country to undergo an examination here. In stating the case to the magistrate,

Mr. Poland said that he should be in a condition, with a mass of evidence against the prisoners at the bar, to show that they were connected in a gigantic conspiracy to defraud the Turkish Government to a serious extent. He should be able to prove that the machine was ordered by Boeserrole, and that a press and dies, which had been made by Mr. Davis and Mr. Thomas, were ordered by all three. In Beverdy's room, at Liverpool, were found a number of letters relating to the affair. One letter from Boeserrolle to Aime, dated the 20th of April, referred to a sealed bag of Turkish coin on the way from Egypt. They were similar to those the dies were made from. Boeserrolle then came to London, and in August last they all three went to Wolverhampton, and not only purchased a steam engine, but 15 tons of sheet copper for making these coins. He should be able also to show that Aime had been employed in a large factory in the Metropolis where buttons were made, and he was used to machines such as those ordered of Mr. Davis. There were letters written by both prisoners to each other relating to the whole affair, which would show his worship that they were all connected with this gigantic conspiracy. The learned counsel then called a number of witnesses, who proved the facts stated, and the prisoners stand remanded, to be again brought up on the arrival of Boeserrolle.

TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade returns for the month of September were issued on the 25th October, and show a falling-off of only £355,109 in the value of our exportations contrasted with the corresponding month of last year. This moderate result, however, appears to be attributable solely to the animation in the trade to India and China, the shipments of cotton manufactures, which last month figured for an increase of £427,217, again presenting an improvement to the extent of £408,463 —a result which is the more remarkable when the alteration in the price of the staple is taken into account. Of almost all our other productions the shipments during the month have been small. Throughout the remainder of the year these returns will be of more than usual interest, since they will embrace a comparison with the period of the great crisis. The subjoined table exhibits the exact increase or decrease in the exportation of each article on the present occasion:—

DECLARED VALUE OF EXPORTATIONS.

Months ending Sept. 30, 1857, and Sept. 30, 1858.	1857.	1858.	Increase.	Decrease.
Apparel and slops	£190,928	£163,592	—	£27,336
Beer and ale	108,376	96,755	—	11,621
Books	39,081	34,509	—	4,572
Butter	52,503	46,068	—	6,435
Candles	29,710	18,826	—	10,884
Cheese	13,891	11,894	—	1,997
Coals and culm	332,205	311,748	—	20,457
Cordage	18,176	13,538	—	4,638
Cottons	2,494,950	2,903,413	£408,463	—
Cotton yarn	965,698	862,651	—	103,047
Earthenware	123,578	96,449	—	27,129
Fish	200,964	174,051	—	26,913
Furniture	29,719	25,041	—	4,678
Glass	58,917	53,198	—	5,719
Haberdashery	328,183	340,509	12,326	—
Hardwares	360,847	300,845	—	60,002
Leather	196,411	182,515	—	13,896
Linens	402,056	355,227	—	46,829
Linen yarn	149,017	175,989	26,972	—
Machinery	1,445,184	357,641	—	87,543
Iron and steel	187,410	1,046,656	—	140,754
Copper and brass	272,512	221,516	—	50,996
Lead	63,086	73,712	11,626	—
Tin	202,976	136,011	—	66,965
Oil seed	60,304	76,699	16,395	—
Painters' colours	39,931	37,196	—	2,735
Pickles and sauces	34,654	34,391	—	263
Plate and jewellery	41,230	44,157	2,927	—
Salt	33,028	26,464	—	6,564
Silks	233,268	198,846	—	34,422
Soap	18,315	21,362	3,047	—
Soda	77,195	76,788	—	407
Spirits	54,983	18,105	—	36,878
Stationery	58,531	71,996	13,465	—
Sugar, refined	40,050	59,093	19,043	—
Wool	104,740	89,541	—	15,199
Woollens	915,463	929,589	14,126	—
Woollen Yarn	345,196	308,306	—	36,890
Unenumerated articles	746,608	718,878	—	27,730
Total	11,068,874	10,713,765		

Over the corresponding month of 1856, the present total shows an increase of £497,094.

The value of our exports for the first nine months of the year has been £86,310,329, showing a decrease of £9,425,263, or nearly 10 per cent. The decline each month has been in the following proportions :—

	Decrease.
January	£1,836,505
February	2,024,624
March	1,456,074
April	534,411

	Decrease.
May	1,117,556
June	389,407
July	1,207,535
August	504,042
September	355,109

Compared with the corresponding nine months of 1856, there ha been an increase of £1,403,724.

With respect to imported commodities, wheat and flour continue t be received in large quantities. The arrivals have been large of tea sugar, spirits, fruits, and spices; and small of cocoa, coffee, and wines. The quantities of these and other articles of food and luxury taken into home use show little variations from those of last year.

Subjoined are the quantities of provisions, &c., imported and taken for home consumption :—

Months ending Sep. 30, 1857, and Sep. 30, 1858.	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Grain, wheat, qrs.	284,625	306,813	284,625	306,813
Grain of other descriptions, qrs.	345,840	398,993	345,840	398,993
Indian corn, qrs....	141,609	141,607	141,609	141,607
Flour and meal, cwt.	67,689	196,405	67,689	196,405
Provisions—Bacon, &c. &c., cwt.	28,770	32,468	Free.	Free.
Butter and cheese, cwt.	75,753	62,132	76,205	63,702
Animals, No.	46,770	41,545	Free.	Free.
Eggs, No.	10,005,000	10,422,400	10,005,000	10,231,800
Cocoa, lb.	251,063	607,912	183,573	201,544
Coffee, lb.	8,131,385	6,003,444	2,920,493	2,940,976
Sugar, cwt.	632,978	1,129,798	693,427	728,226
Tea, lb....	3,831,395	11,346,397	5,965,843	6,149,558
Rice, cwt.	451,604	369,065	132,589	160,772
Spirits, gallons	595,815	773,257	386,309	356,594
Wines, gallons	608,329	423,662	559,755	560,108
Tobacco, lb.	4,301,832	4,183,545	2,790,902	2,810,293
Currants, figs and raisins, cwt...	24,709	43,979	42,652	59,493
Lemons and oranges, bushels ...	1,957	5,982	4,190	6,593
Spices, lb.	342,207	1,224,207	421,310	498,598
Ditto, cwt.	3,232	4,303	1,421	2,742

The following are the comparative imports and exports of raw material :—

Months ending Sept. 30, 1857, and Sept. 30, 1858.	Imported.		Exported.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Flax, cwt.	401,428	203,100	—	—
Hemp, cwt	265,572	150,212	—	—
Raw silk, lb.	384,548	318,582	118,492	277,807
Cotton, cwt....	430,718	655,270	62,596	178,564
Wool, lb.	9,830,192	11,098,741	8,071,861	1,747,857
Tallow, cwt.	116,686	111,797	1,445	2,412

Of silk manufactures the totals stand thus :—

Months ending Sept. 30, 1857, and Sept. 30, 1858	Imported.		Home Consumption.	
	1857.	1858.	1857.	1858.
Silk manufactures of Europe, lb.	73,099	89,390	74,612	88,422
Ditto of India, pieces	25,763	12,959	1,523	2,051

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to Thursday, November 11 :—

DEBTOR.	F.	C.
Capital of the Bank	91,250,000	0
Ditto, New	91,250,000	0
Profits in addition to capital (Art. 8, Law of June 9, 1857)	1,513,467	77
Reserve of the Bank	12,980,750	14
New reserve	9,125,000	0
Ditto in landed property...	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	690,844,025	0
Bank notes to order	6,605,774	59
Receipts payable at sight	7,320,086	0
Treasury account-current, creditor	105,821,100	7
Sundry accounts-current...	135,557,608	9
Do. with the branch banks	30,212,141	0
Dividends payable	603,347	25
Discounts and sundry interests	3,245,887	44
Commission on deposits ...	7,211,526	71
Re-discounted during the last-six months	1,066,532	18
Surplus of paid-up bills ...	87,089	43
Sundries	4,439,297	54
F.	1,203,083,633	21

CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand	239,976,968	31
Cash in the branch banks	286,438,641	0
Commercial bills overdue	2,291,604	87
Do. discounted, not yet due	201,489,217	84
Ditto in the branch banks	219,246,724	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	847,700	0
Do. by the branch banks	1,457,500	0
Do. on French public securities	39,887,200	0
Do. by the branch banks	10,438,710	0
Do. on railway securities	48,793,400	0
Do. by the branch banks	24,664,350	0
Do. on Crédit Foncier scrip	502,700	0
Do. on branch banks scrip	210,100	0
Do. to the State on agreement of June 30, 1848...	45,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	12,980,750	14
Ditto disposable	52,188,102	18
New shares, not settled ..	51,700	0
Hotel & furniture of the Bk.	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	6,645,548	0
Expenses of the Bank.....	1,617,468	56
Sundries.....	4,405,258	31
F.	1,203,083,633	21

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, DE GERMINY.

The above return is not more unfavourable than had been anticipated from the drain of specie to Germany. The falling off has been £920,000 (last month it was £1,770,000), and the total now held is £21,060,000. The note circulation, which was largely increased last month, remains without alteration. The discounts show a further augmentation of £700,000, and in the deposits of the public and the Government there is a diminution respectively of £192,000 and £470,000. The large addition made last month to the advances on Rentes has been followed by a reduction of nearly £500,000, but in those on railway shares there has been an increase of £120,000.

THE LONDON AND COUNTY AND TIPPERARY BANKS.

THE ESTATES OF THE LATE JOHN SADLEIR.

A VERY important inquiry, relative to the claim of the London and County Bank to the extensive estates of the late John Sadleir, transferred by him to Mr. Burmester, was opened before Judge Longfield in the Landed Estates Court, Dublin, on the 6th of November, and occupied several days in the discussion. The question at issue may be shortly stated. The Tipperary Bank creditors claim the proceeds of these estates, on the ground that they were purchased by Sadleir with their money, and that the directors of the London and County Bank well knew he was dealing unfairly with the funds of the Irish concern when they advanced him the large sum upon his landed purchases, which they now claim. In reply the directors of the London and County Bank have filed several affidavits, alleging they knew nothing nor suspected anything of the corrupt practices of their co-director, Sadleir. The statement of Dr. Lawson must prove interesting to a large body of persons at the other side of the Channel; accordingly an abridged report is annexed:—

Mr. Serjeant Deasy, Mr. Longfield, Q.C., and Mr. Lawless appeared for the official manager of the Tipperary Bank; Mr. Lawson, Q. C., Mr. Sullivan, Q.C., and Mr. Murphy appeared for the London and County Bank.

Mr. Serjeant Deasy, in opening the case, said:—The value of the fund in dispute was upwards of £100,000. It appeared that for many months prior to the stoppage of the Tipperary Bank, John Sadleir was at loggerheads with his brother James, the manager of the bank, for not freely cashing his huge drafts, after he (John) had abstracted somewhere about three times the amount of the paid-up capital. James, while addressing as "my dear John," writes, "I would not be burdened with your constant lies any longer." Again, "Your constant lying is worse than anything else, and very little would make me send back the £5,000 cheques," &c. This letter was written from Clonmel in March, 1855, or nearly a year before the bank stopped payment. Again, about the same time, we find the acting managing brother writing to the reckless John—"Nothing can be more roguish or disgraceful than your conduct. I consider your ruin, as you call it, of very little consequence." And in a postcript he adds—"It is only just a mere doubt the bank keeping open next week." But that concern did keep open until the following February or March, nearly a full year. It was apparently owing to these sturdy letters of James and a specific demand for security that John gave authority to James to deal with the estates—since sold— and the produce of which was now the subject of litigation. The assignees of the Tipperary Bank, on behalf of the creditors, charged the directors of the London and County Bank with having been well aware of the fact of John Sadleir's tampering with the funds of the Irish bank; that they must have known that he had, through his brother James, obtained large advances from its coffers, and notwithstanding they allowed him to incur an enormous amount of liability to their concern without any valid security.

Several witnesses having been examined to substantiate this statement,

Mr. Lawson, Q.C., proceeded to state the cause for the London and County Bank, and to reply to the statements relied upon for the other side. He proceeded to say that, as he understood the case made on the other side, it was that the London and County Bank had notice of the agreement of the 15th March, 1855, and that they were so mixed up with the frauds of John Sadleir that they could now derive no benefit from the securities. That was the ornamental part of the case. It was brought forward for two

reasons—first, *in terrorem*, in order to intimidate the parties; and secondly, to give a popular air, a popular aspect to the matter, to show that the Tipperary Bank came into court and claimed the proceeds of those sales, because the estates were purchased with their own money, and that the London and County Bank participated in the frauds of John Sadleir in robbing the public. That was the case made on the other side, as he understood it. His learned friend, Serjeant Deasy, complained of his clients for having trusted in John Sadleir; he blamed them because that, instead of believing him to be a man of straw, they believed him to be a man of considerable property, and the owner of unincumbered estates. But who gave birth to that delusion? The directors of the Tipperary Bank, by giving something like £200,000 to purchase these estates with, and thus letting him go into the market as an unincumbered owner. And did it lie in the mouths of those who had given such power to their own directors, or neglected to superintend their own affairs—who allowed that man to abstract from the bank the sum of £200,000—did it, then, lie in the mouths of those men to say that the London and County Bank trusted to those deceptive appearances which were caused by the conduct of the Tipperary Bank itself? It was proved that John Sadleir had agencies to an enormous amount, and that those agencies, and the estates which he purchased, represented him as having an income of £80,000 a year—all this was obtained through the agency of the Tipperary Bank. He could quite understand that Mr. James Sadleir had his own motives, political and private, for putting his brother into that position, and for abstracting the money from the Tipperary Bank, in order to enable his brother to go and humbug the London public, which he did; and not only that, but he was a member of Parliament, with members of Parliament at his back; he was a Lord of the Treasury, the trusted of ministers; he was hand and glove with the Rothschilds, and yet they were told that the London and County Bank ought to have known that he was robbing the Tipperary Bank, and that the directors were guilty of frauds because they did not discover all these things. It was in evidence that in the month of November, 1854—and he used this for the purpose of showing the confidence which the directors of the London and County Bank had in Sadleir up to the very last—John Sadleir was perfectly solvent. On that occasion Mr. M'Kewan, the manager of the London and County Bank, prepared a statement of the assets and liabilities of Mr. John Sadleir. He stated that on the 24th of November, 1854, that was prepared by him, in the presence of Messrs. Wilkinson and Stevens, and in the presence of John Sadleir; and that that statement was made from information conveyed to him by John Sadleir, and from his own knowledge of his affairs; and that John Sadleir stated, on his honour as a gentleman, that that statement was a true representation of his affairs at the time; and they were thus led to believe that his assets amounted to £300,000 over and above all his liabilities; and, therefore, the sudden exposure took the directors of the bank completely by surprise, as it took the public by surprise. It has also been stated by Serjeant Deasy that John Sadleir and his co-directors were engaged in speculations. Well, they all knew that speculation was a thing which the English were extremely prone to, that speculation depended greatly on the state of the money market, and they all knew also that people there entered into speculations which turned out unfortunate. But the directors of the London and County Bank had not entered into speculations; they were shareholders in various companies, but he denied that any of those gentlemen had in any way broken faith; and it was equally untrue that ruin stared them in the face; and no

blemish stood upon them, and no reproach could be brought against them, either as to their honesty or their solvency. It was stated that from the manner in which John Sadleir carried out his transactions, the London and County Bank ought to have known that there was something wrong going on between him and the Tipperary Bank, whose head was James Sadleir. A letter had been given on the other side, of the 3rd March, 1855, which contained a passage proving to demonstration the nature of the circumstances between them, and that both John and James Sadleir knew very well that the London and County Bank were completely in the dark with regard to the nature of the transactions between John Sadleir and the Tipperary Bank, and that they knew nothing of the nature of the dealings between John Sadleir and James. But really the charge of plunder and fraud was about the most ridiculous charge, when it came to be analysed, that ever came before a court of justice; for it amounted to this—that the directors of the London and County Bank were combining to rob themselves; for not one shilling of the Tipperary Bank came into the London and County Bank, except its drafts for money. He could quite understand that case if the debt of John Sadleir to the London and County Bank had become smaller and smaller, but that was not the state of things. Who got the money of the Tipperary Bank? John Sadleir. Who got the money of the London and County Bank? John Sadleir. He appeared to be a man of great ability, for he possessed a capacity which enabled him to raise money three or four times over upon the same property—property which he was enabled to obtain possession of by means of the money of the Tipperary Bank. He effected a mortgage to the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos for £13,000, as if the money was his own; but not a tittle of evidence had been given in reference to the statement respecting the security deeds regarding the money. It was a most extraordinary mode of proving collusion between the London and County Bank and John Sadleir to rob the Tipperary Bank by the documents offered on the other side, namely, the remonstrances from Frith, Luard, &c., to John Sadleir. Another charge was put forward to prove the collusion between the London and County Bank and John Sadleir, because they required the orders of the Tipperary Bank to be put in a little more business-like and regular form. That John Sadleir consented to, and the orders were changed in form according to the request. There was a large number of those orders, they were told, and they said on the other side that that very circumstance of the orders being of such a large amount was sufficient to cause the people of the London and County Bank to make inquiries as to whether the transactions were real or not. It was the first time that he ever heard that a man who had an account with a bank, and who might pass to the bank an acceptance, that the bank should ask whether they were accommodation acceptances or not. It was perfectly obvious that those orders were renewals one after the other, so that the amount represented was only imaginary; but by renewing those orders a system of correspondence was kept up between the Tipperary Bank and Glyn and Company, of which the London and County Bank had no notice whatever. It appeared to him that the charge just came to this, that John Sadleir was clever enough to outwit them all. He had, of course, great influence over the bank as chairman; but his personal influence was also great. He was looked upon as a man of capital, and therefore it was not wonderful if he was indulged and allowed to overdraw his account, which he would not be allowed to do if he was merely an ordinary director of the bank. Serjeant Deasy had also mentioned Mr. Dargan's bills, and how that on one day the directors refused to cash the bill for £60,000, but on another day they did

cash it. Now, that only showed how very cleverly John Sadleir did his business. The very proposition that the directors of the bank should have gone to the capitalist, Mr. Dargan, to ask whether his acceptances were genuine, showed its absurdity. Again, it was stated that John had such undue influence over James that he was able to abstract the funds from the Tipperary Bank, and that the directors of the London and County Bank were aware of it; but it did not appear that he exercised any such influence at all; for it was clear that, according to some of the letters given by the other side, James Sadleir was able to fight his own battle, and that when he had not his own object to effect he could resist John Sadleir stiffly enough. But the truth was, they were both following out one common object, not that John exercised any undue influence over him, but they were in the same boat, and so long as they enhanced their own private and political position, they cared very little for anything else—the question being what was the maximum amount of money that could be raised by John Sadleir upon those estates which had been secured. With regard to the sum of £95,000 advanced to John Sadleir by the London and County Bank, he should prove before the case was over that every penny of that went into John Sadleir's hands, and that £46,000 of it went into the coffers of the Tipperary Bank. Of course, if they had been aware that those estates never belonged to John Sadleir, or if they knew of his frauds with respect to the Tipperary Bank, they would not have given him the sum of £95,000. The London and County Bank, in the year 1854, had obtained mortgages from John Sadleir, and with these mortgages, deposits of the title deeds of the estates. He merely used that fact in order to show the *status* of things in the month of March, 1855. In that month, as was usual with him, John Sadleir required money to the amount of £200,000, and he proposed to get that sum by means of the Tipperary Bank. He sent Robert Keating to Ireland to make arrangements with James Sadleir for raising the money. Keating was his friend, his cousin—in fact, his tool, upon that occasion; and his lordship would observe that it was through Robert Keating, the messenger and friend of John Sadleir, that the other side sought to fix the directors of the London and County Bank with constructive notice of the transaction of the 15th of March, 1855. Robert Keating went to Ireland, not as a director of the London and County Bank, not with the privity of the directors, but as the friend of John Sadleir, to obtain the sum of £200,000, when James Sadleir took sulk, and refused to be as compliant as he had been on former occasions. They found in a letter written by him in March, 1855, these words—"It is only a mere doubt, the bank keeping open next week." The London and County Bank had no more idea of the Tipperary Bank not being a solvent establishment than those in court had of the Bank of Ireland not being a solvent establishment. Serjeant Deasy had pathetically said, that if the instrument of the 15th of March, 1855, had been registered, it would have settled the question; but if it had been it would have done all the mischief that the Sadleirs wished to avoid. For what said Mr. James Barron Kennedy, who had acted in the most honourable way in this matter? "Oh, I thought it was a nullity." The registration of the agreement would not have answered the purpose of John and James Sadleir at all. They were both engaged in working out the same problem, namely, to enable John Sadleir to raise the maximum amount of money on the property to which the agreement related; and they knew that if they registered the document John Sadleir's hands would be tied; he would have been unable after that to raise one shilling upon the estates, and therefore it was intended that that agreement

never should be registered, that it should never be acted upon except fo the purpose of perpetrating a fraud, and that was the instrument by whicl it was now sought in a court of equity to give priority to the Tipperar Bank. Serjeant Deasy was also very pathetic with reference to the non execution of the deed for carrying out the agreement of the 15th of March but that deed was never executed, for the same reason that the agreement was never registered. Had it been it would have been a fortunate thing for the London and County Bank, for they never would have given him the further sum of £95,000, but it would have been most unfortunate for the Tipperary Bank. Those deeds were kept by John or James Sadleir. Mr. Kennedy did not know how exactly they came into his custody afterwards; they were never acted upon. The agreement of the 15th of March lay in *perdu* until the official manager made the discovery of that piece of paper which he thought would have the effect of throwing all the proceeds of those sales into the coffers of the Tipperary Bank; but it was to be feared that he would not reap the fruits which he expected from that discovery. Counsel then referred to the case of *Parry* and *Kenrick*, De Gex and Jones's Reports, page 21, as bearing on the question of priority; to *Hoffman* and *Baldwin*, same reports; to *Powells* v. *Page*, 3d C.B., page 15; and to *Martin* v. *Sedgwick*, 3 Beavan 333; to the well-known case of *Ginger*, as to the question of liability; and to the case of *Hardy* and *Green*, in reference to the question of notice; and concluded an elaborate argument by submitting that his clients were entitled to the proceeds of the sale, and that the objections of the official manager should be overruled.

A vast amount of documentary evidence having been put in and several witnesses examined, Judge Longford eventually deferred judgment, which had not been delivered when the *Bankers' Magazine* went to press.

CHILIAN LOAN FOR £1,500,000.

The official notification respecting the new Chilian 4½ per cent. loan was issued by Messrs. Baring, the financial agents of the Government, on the 25th November, and states in clear and precise terms the nature of the contract proposed to be carried out. The amount to be raised is £1,554,800, under the law of the 5th of November last year, which authorised a loan for 7,000,000 of dollars for the purposes of internal improvement in the completion of two railways "the faith, income, and property" of the republic, as well as the shares which the State holds in the lines, being pledged to its repayment. The bonds will be of £100 and £500 each, the dividends payable half-yearly on the 1st of June and 1st of December. A sinking fund of not less than half of one per cent. per annum, with accumulating interest, commencing from the 1st of December, 1859, will be applicable to the extinction of the debt, through the purchase and cancelment of bonds when their price is below par, and by lot and payment at par when the bonds have reached that price. At the same time it is announced that the Government of Chili reserves to itself the right to pay off the bonds at par after the 1st of December, 1873. The contractors will receive applications for subscriptions at the price of 92 per cent., accompanied by a deposit of 5 per cent., with subsequent instalments averaging from 10 to 20 per cent., between the 15th proximo and the 13th of May. With respect to the instalments, it is announced that discount will be allowed at the rate of 3 per cent. on the anticipation of these payments, and any surplus on the deposit beyond 20 per cent.

(including the instalment of 15 per cent.) due on the 15th of December on the allotments, will be returned to the applicants without delay. It required little preliminary information to prove that the Republic was in a satisfactory position. That, however, which has been furnished shows a condition of things even more favourable than was anticipated. The amount of the home debt is only about £486,910, chiefly bearing 3 per cent. interest, and in course of speedy reduction through the operation of a sinking fund; and the foreign debt is represented by £575,400 in 6 per cent. bonds, and £605,400 in 3 per cent. bonds, the entire amount of which will be gradually extinguished. For the year 1857 the revenue reached 6,419,142 dollars; and it suffices, under general circumstances, to cover the whole of the national engagements, and a considerable balance is asserted to exist in the treasury to meet deficiencies. No question can therefore be entertained but that the loan will be adopted by the public; and already, at the Stock Exchange this afternoon, offers were made on the part of the speculators to take the scrip at a premium, although it must be considered early to form a just estimate of its value. The securities with which the new Chilian loan will come principally in competition are Brazilian, Buenos Ayres, and Peruvian; and looking at their respective positions and quotations, the contract price at which the transaction has been concluded will, there is every reason to think, allow a fair margin for profit.

Banking and Commercial Law.

ON THE LIABILITY OF DIRECTORS OF BANKS, WHO MAKE FALSE REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING THE AFFAIRS OF THE BANK, TO INDEMNIFY THE PUBLIC WHO ARE THEREBY MISLED TO PURCHASE SHARES.

The extent of this liability is now the subject of consideration in the case of *Scott* v. *Dixon*, to which the eyes of so many of the banking public are now directed.

That case relates to the affairs of the Liverpool Borough Bank, and it involves the application of a principle, expounded, if not established, by the late Lord Denman, when Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench. If one person, for profit, knowingly utter a falsehood to another, in order to defraud him, and that other, believing the falsehood and acting on it, is injured, thereby the utterer of the falsehood is liable to compensate the party injured. In the case of *Barley* v. *Walford*, 15 Law and 2 B. 369, prior cases, which had extended this principle, were considered and distinguished, and Lord Denman, in delivering judgment, said:—

"The judgment which was given in this Court, in *Evans* v. *Collins*, affirming the proposition that every false statement made by one person, and believed by another, and so acted upon as to bring loss upon him,

constituted a grievance, for which the law gives a remedy by action, has been overruled by the Court of Exchequer Chamber, which did not deny the authority of *Humphreys* v. *Pratt*, in the House of Lords, but thought it might be distinguished from *Evans* v. *Collins*. Whether, in point of reasoning, that distinction is very satisfactory, we need not enquire; for, having been established by the Court of Error, it must prevail. And on the more general subject, we must admit the reasonableness of the doctrine there at length laid down; for, if every untrue statement which produces damage to another would found an action at law, a man might sue his neighbour for any mode of communicating erroneous information, such, for example, as having a conspicuous clock too slow, since the plaintiff might be thereby prevented from attending to some duty or acquiring some benefit. A doctrine creating legal responsibility in cases so numerous and so free from blame, must be restrained within some limits. But an averment that the falsehood of his representation was known to the defendant, and that he knowingly and wilfully uttered it, seems to carry the matter somewhat farther. If, indeed, he were under any legal obligation to state the truth correctly to the plaintiff, there would be a grievance in misleading him, for which an action on the case would lie—still more so, if he made the false representation with a view to some unfair advantage to himself. Now, here, on minutely examining the allegation, though not very scientifically made, we think it sufficiently appears that the defendant uttered, knowingly, a deliberate falsehood on this subject, with a view to his own lucre. It is averred that he did so with a design to deprive the plaintiff of the benefit of the last lot of goods, and to acquire for his own sole use; and it is very plain that this object might have been effected in the manner alleged (by deterring plaintiff from bringing his own goods into the market). The defendant has no right to say that the plaintiff was wrong in giving him credit for the truth of what he said; and there is no doubt that the special damage naturally flowed from the plaintiff's confidence in the defendant's false assertion. We think, therefore, that the plaintiff has stated a good cause of action, and the demurrer must be overruled."

The right of a party joining a bank as a shareholder to recover damages on the ground of false representations made for the purpose and under the circumstances stated, must not be confounded with the right which a party may have to repudiate the shares he may have taken, and so escape from all responsibility as a contributory. The two positions are distinguished in an able paper in the *Law Times* for November the 13th, 1858, from which we take the following extract:—

"Many cases have lately occurred in the Court of Chancery under the Winding-up Acts, where a person, sought to be made a contributory, has resisted on the ground that he had been induced to become a shareholder by reason of the fraud and deceit of the directors, *i. e.*, of the company itself; and, therefore, wherever it has happened that he at once repudiated the contract upon his discovering the fraud, and that the fraud had been the act of the company itself, he has been declared by a Court of Equity not to be contributory. Such was the important decision of Kindersley, V. C., in *The Royal British Bank ex parte Brockwell*, 4 Drew. 205, and a later case of *Ex parte Ayre*, 27 L. J., 579 ch. In such cases, the struggle always has been twofold; first, whether the circumstances amounted to a

fraud upon the alleged contributory, which, in general, is a question chiefly turning on the construction of some prospectus or report issued by the directors to the public, after being adopted by the shareholders, or other equivalent conduct of those who defrauded the defendant. The second question always has been whether the fraud was the fraud of the company, or, at least, was perpetrated in circumstances which make it binding on the company or shareholders at large. The latter is generally a difficult question, yet courts of equity seem to have got over it by reasoning in this way. The shareholders in the undertaking, properly speaking, do not come in contact with the public at all; they can only act by and through their directors, who are a select body of themselves, and who are their sole organs to deal with the public. If, therefore, the shareholders could escape all liability, on the ground that they themselves were not individually concerned in the fraud, the result would be that, by a mere juggle between them and the directors, the person defrauded into becoming a shareholder would be without any proper remedy. As Lord *Saint Leonards* and *Lord Cranworth* remarked in a similar case (*National Exchange Company* v. *Drew*, 25 L. J. Rep. 223; and 2 Macq. Ap., 103), the reports made by the directors to the shareholders 'must, from the nature of things and the exigencies of the society, be taken as between the company and third persons to be representations of the company: the company, as an abstract being, can represent or do nothing.' It is of no use to say that the representation was made to the shareholders and not by them, and that they were as much deceived as the rest of the world. Even the clumsy artifice of printing 'private and confidential,' or 'for the use of proprietors only,' at the head of the report, would be of no avail, and *Kindersley, V.C.*, in *Brockwell's* case, treated such an argument as an outrage on common sense. The representations in a report presented to and adopted by the shareholders, therefore, go forth to the world and bind the company in all questions with third parties.

"But the directors may also make representations which do not bind the company, but bind only themselves. In *Holt's* case, 22 Beav., 53, the M. R. says, on this subject: 'Assuming all that Holt states is correct, and that he was induced by the misrepresentation of one of the directors to become a director and shareholder in this company, though it is possible he may be able to sustain an action against the director who so deceived him, yet as between him and all other innocent members they have a right of contribution against him. In *Bell's* case, 22 Beav. 35, I thought that persons brought into the company under the circumstances there stated—that is, by an act emanating from the whole body in its quasi corporate character—were not likely to be made contributories to diminish the burden of the liabilities which the company had incurred. But if, upon the establishment of a company, one man says to another, 'This is a thriving and prosperous concern,' though that statement may be false altogether, and though the person who hears it is deceived thereby and induced to join it, still he becomes a contributory. In the one case, it is the act of the company; in the other it is the act of a particular individual; but in neither case can the party committing the fraud obtain any benefit thereby. In the former case, this is prevented by declaring that the persons deceived are not thereby made contributories; in the latter, by enabling the person deceived to enforce his personal remedy against the man who deceived him.'"

The liability to make compensation incurred by a director, who by his fraudulent representations induces the public to

buy shares, has been decided but
v. *Seymour*, 32 *Law Times*, 81, whi
of Lords, but both there and in th
of a single judge was affirmed witl
chairman of a mining company, b
Stock Exchange that two-thirds o
and paid upon, procured the stock
list. A stranger, relying on the list,
and the Chief Justice Jervis held th
damages from the chairman, the fa
not been taken and paid upon.

When this case is examined, i
elements Lord Denman points ou
being required to create responsib
uttered, to mislead for the benefit o

We cannot anticipate what course
will take. It may be brought witl
some special circumstance, establish
foregoing views of the law be correc
is in great jeopardy, and that directo
serious position, where they have de
issuing statements to the public.

Legal Misce

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK—IN RE

An adjourned examination meeting was a
before Mr. Commissioner Fane, at the Cou
Hugh James Cameron, late managing dire
who is now undergoing his period of impr
in consequence of the indictment prefe
Shortly before the trial he was made banl
salesman, of Hyde Park-gate. The bankr
of an officer of the Queen's Prison. Mr. L
that this was not the first adjournment, but
in fact, the bankrupt was not in a position
factory accounts. The Commissioner—Wh
citates him from doing so. Mr. Linklater
Bench Prison, and he could not there have
which were necessary to enable him to
thought better, under all the circumstances
out naming the day; Mr. Cameron had at
it would be an imputation upon him; but
Commissioner—It is useless having sitting
without any practical result. Mr. Linklate
extended for three months, to be renewed
missioner—Then let the case be adjourned

be without any imputation on Mr. Cameron. The bankrupt was then removed in custody.

THE LIVERPOOL BOROUGH BANK.—SCOTT AND ANOTHER V. DIXON.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, on the 3rd November, the Attorney-General (with whom were Mr. Atherton, Q.C., and Mr. Mellish) said he was instructed to move for a new trial in this case, which was tried before Mr. Baron Martin at the last assizes, and resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff. Though the case involved questions of the highest possible importance, it would be found that the facts presented only two or three points for consideration, and that they were extremely simple, and could be stated in the smallest possible compass. The action was brought by Messrs. Scott and Robinson, the joint purchasers of only ten shares of £10 each in the Liverpool Borough Bank. The bank had stopped payment, and its affairs were now under liquidation. The present action charged the directors of the bank with fraud and deceit; and that, with the intention to persuade and induce the plaintiffs to become purchasers of shares, they falsely represented to them that the bank was in a flourishing and solvent condition, and that the capital was untouched. The declaration alleged that that representation was false, and that all the statements made by the defendants were untrue; and that the bank was insolvent, and its capital had ceased to exist. The bank was established as a joint-stock bank in the year 1836.

Lord Campbell—On what ground is it that you move?

The Attorney-General said he moved, first, on the ground that there was no evidence to support the charge which was left to the jury; secondly, that no representations had been made by the defendant to the plaintiffs; and, thirdly, that evidence was rejected which ought to have been admitted. He (the Attorney-General) should also ask their Lordships to consider whether the verdict was not against the weight of the evidence. The great question would turn on a single sentence in a written document. The bank was established in the year 1836, and consisted of 100,000 shares of £10 each, making a capital of £1,000,000. There were twelve directors; and the bank being opened, it was carried on by those twelve directors, with the assistance of a manager, the chief officer of the bank, and other persons in their employ. Although there were twelve directors, and it might by some be thought that it was the duty of every individual director to make himself acquainted from time to time with all the details of the business of the bank, its debts, credits, and liabilities——

Lord Campbell—The action is not for a mere omission or carelessness, but for an express misrepresentation.

The Attorney-General said, it was quite right that their Lordships should be made aware of the system openly and avowedly before the public carried on and pursued by this bank. It appeared that the chief business of the bank, the management of the details of the accounts, the knowledge of the details of the accounts, and of the solvency of the different persons, was confined to the manager and two managing directors, and that so early as the year 1837, the year after the bank was established, in the first general report made by the bank, it was stated, and credit was claimed for the circumstance, that the private concerns of the customers would only be known to a select number of three persons.

Lord Campbell—A sort of Cabinet Council.

The Attorney-General here read an extract from the report of 1837 in

support of his statement, and proceeded to state that down to about the middle of the year 1854 the affairs of the bank continued in a very prosperous state. In that year there was exceeding great distress in the shipping interest, and a great number of the customers of the bank were injured in their interests and became insolvent in their circumstances in consequence of the misfortunes of the shipping interest. Many of the shipowners of Liverpool, also, who did not stop payment, but carried on their business with assistance had since entirely failed. The debts of those persons to the bank were at least half a million. There could be no doubt that from that time the seeds of destruction, the origin of the ruin of the bank, commenced.

Lord Campbell inquired whether the bank lessened its dividends?

The Attorney-General said the bank had done so in July, 1857, at the instance of the defendant. From the year 1854 to the year 1857 the business of the bank was carried on in the way stated, the manager and managing directors only having the means of becoming acquainted with the concerns of the bank, and especially with the outstanding bills and the value of the balances due by the shipowners. With respect to the *bona fides* of the defendant, he (the learned Attorney-General) might state that he did not become a director till the year 1854, and between that time, and so late as the month of June, 1857, only one month before the presentation of the report in question, he continued to invest his own fortune in the purchase of shares, which he held to the amount of £14,000, 500 of which, of the value of £5,000, he purchased only two months before the presentation of the report in question.

Lord Campbell said it was important to see what was the state of the defendant's mind, and what he believed at the time he made the representation.

The Attorney-General said he would now come to that part of the case. There had been a fall of from 40 to 50 per cent. in the value of ships. One item in the accounts of the bank was under the head of outstanding bills, which amounted to from £3,000,000 to £4,000,000 or £5,000,000. It was impossible to tell what was the exact balance.

Lord Campbell suggested that it was possible to make an approximate estimate as to whether the bank was solvent or insolvent.

The Attorney-General said that, at the most, the defendant had merely made a mistake as to about £58,000.

Lord Campbell asked whether the report recommended a dividend.

The Attorney-General said it did, but it recommended it should be reduced from 7 to 5 per cent. The defendant had for nearly two years felt and expressed his dissatisfaction at the ignorance and limited degree of knowledge of the affairs of the bank allowed to the directors; and had contended that the directors ought to be better informed of the state of the bank. But he only succeeded in carrying his object in July, 1857, when it was too late to be of any avail. It was proposed that the defendant should be appointed a managing director, but the proposal was negatived, and it was only on the 4th of July, 1857, just twenty-four days before the presentation of the report, that he did become a managing director.

Lord Campbell—He then became one of the three.

The Attorney-General said that when the defendant was made a managing director he desired Mr. Smith, the manager, to prepare him a statement of the bad debts. Mr. Smith had been the manager for about two years, and the defendant wished to have this statement before he would consider what the report should be, and before he would consent

to declare a dividend. Mr. Smith, the manager, furnished him with such a paper, showing what was the amount of the bad debts, or, at least, what might eventually become such. The paper contained a list of fifteen names, headed with the name of Alexander Johnson, and the debts in all amounted to £334,500. Those were debts which in the result might become a total loss.

Lord Campbell—Those debts had been treated as assets.

The Attorney-General said that if from 10 to 15 per cent. could be saved out of that amount, all the reserve fund of £111,775 10*s.* 11*d.* would be lost, but the capital of the bank, amounting to £1,000,000, would be untouched; but if, on the other hand, the whole of the £334,500 were lost, there would be a loss of £30,000 to £40,000 from the capital, and no dividend could be paid. Mr. Smith had put down on the other side of the account certain figures which would have left a balance of about £15,000 in favour of the bank; but the defendant had struck these figures out, and took a less favourable view of the state of the bank. He (the defendant) came to the conclusion that if from 10 to 15 per cent. could be recovered of the bad debts there would be no necessity to touch the capital; but in the more unfavourable case the capital would be worse by about £30,000 to £40,000. He took into account that for six years the bank had made an annual profit of about £112,000.

Lord Campbell—That is, supposing all the debts had been paid.

The Attorney-General said the bank had declared dividends of 7 per cent., and carried the balance to the reserve fund. In that state of mind the defendant went to the meeting (of the directors) and opposed the dividend; but ultimately it was determined that a report should be presented stating that there were debts to a large amount which might not be realised, that the reserve fund was gone, and that there could be do dividend unless some portion of the bad debts were recovered. The defendant yielded to that arrangement, but only on the condition that the report should state the facts to the shareholders, which was done accordingly. The report of the directors to the proprietors began by stating that—

"According to the last report, the paid-up capital of the bank was £900,000, and the reserve fund was £101,775 10*s.* 11*d.* Since that date two calls of £1 per share had been paid upon the new shares, making the capital £1,000,000."

At that time it was assumed that there was a valid existing capital of £1,000,000. The report went on to state:—

"The net profits of the past year, after payment of all expenses of management, and after deducting £458,252 2*s.* 1*d.* for losses by bad debts incurred during the same period, amount to					£69,318	12	8
"Appropriated as follows:—							
"3½ per cent. dividend upon... ...	£33,250	0	0				
"2½ per cent.	25,000	0	0				
"Property-tax paid by the bank ...	3,629	6	8				
					61,879	6	8
"Balance carried to the reserve fund					£7,439	6	0

"Nearly the whole of the losses above mentioned have been caused by the frauds of a single customer."

Thus far there was no dispute, and

Mr. Baron Martin, in summing up the case, said that all that was true to the best of the defendant's knowledge. But then followed this passage:—

"In winding up the affairs of 1854, a year which it is well known most disastrous to those customers of the bank who were engaged in colonial shipping trade, heavier loss has been sustained in the relaxatio the assets, then taken over by way of security, and in the liquidatio estates when considered good, than could possibly have been anticipat

That passage alluded, among others, to the debts of £334,500. T followed a passage on which the whole question turned, and that ques was whether this was a fraudulent and deceitful representation made the shareholders, or rather to the world, that the capital was entire, could not be touched by the payment of the dividend, or whether it wa true statement, taking advantage of probabilities:—

"The directors had thought it their duty at once to reduce the divid to the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, on the grounds that, taking even most favourable view of the liquidation of these accounts, the whole of reserve fund will be required to meet the losses incurred; and that, on other hand, taking the most unfavourable view consistent with probabili the good current business of the bank will, in their opinion, be sufficient admit of the regular continuance of the dividend, without encroaching the capital at the same period in the coming year."

The meaning of that passage was that, taking the most favourable view the case, the reserve fund was gone; but that, taking an unfavoural view, it would be necessary to go to something else. The learned Attorne General proceeded to state that if this verdict could be sustained every m who after the date of the report purchased shares could recover the ca from the defendant, and he would be a ruined man.

Lord Campbell—The defendant appeared to have been of opinion th there should be no dividend, but still he concurred in it.

The Attorney-General said the question was whether this representati was false, not whether the defendant was wrong in declaring a dividen The report went on to state that,

"In laying this statement before the shareholders, the directors desi strongly to impress upon them that its unsatisfactory character is to attributed to the affairs of 1854, and that apart from these, the sound a legitimate business of the bank would have enabled it to pay the ordina dividends, and also to add largely to the reserve fund, notwithstanding t losses that have been incurred subsequently to that year. They wish al to state their confident expectation that the change they are making in t policy and regulations of the bank will effectually guard against the recu rence of similar results."

There was nothing to show that that was not a candid expression of wh was passing in the minds of the directors, who concluded their report stating that Mr. Smith was retiring from the office of manager, and th another gentleman was appointed to take his place. It was said that th report was a representation that the capital of £1,000,000 was entire, wh in fact it was gone.

Mr. Justice Wightman—What was the real state of the bank at th time? The report represents that there was a capital of £1,000,000.

Lord Campbell—But whether it was intact depended on the result pending transactions.

The Attorney-General said that whatever might have been the true sta of the affairs of the bank at that time, which could not be known till affairs were wound up, there could be no doubt that the defendant act upon the little paper handed to him by Smith the manager. The learn Attorney-General then proceeded to contend that in making a report to t shareholders the defendant could not be considered as making a represen ation to all the world.

Lord Campbell said these reports were meant to be seen by the public.

The Attorney-General said nothing more was intended than was done in this case. It was proved that the report was presented to the shareholders, and a broker proved that if he sent to the Bank for a copy he could procure it. There was nothing in the report itself which showed it was intended for the public. The only representation made by the defendant was to the shareholders, with whom he had a common interest. The question was one of intent, which could only be inferred from the defendant's acts; and if the defendant had intended to induce persons to take shares, he never would have issued such a report as the one in question. The learned Attorney-General also contended that the learned judge had improperly refused to admit in evidence a former report of the directors, which was tendered to show how the business of the bank was conducted. It was rejected upon the ground that there was no proof that it had been presented to the shareholders.

Lord Campbell said the Attorney-General might take a rule generally on all the points.—Rule *nisi* granted.

THE RIGHTS OF PRIOR AND SUBSEQUENT MORTGAGEES.—THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF LONDON.—ROLT V. HOPKINSON.

In the Court of Chancery, on the 9th November, the Lord Chancellor gave his decision on this important question, which came before him in the shape of an appeal from the Master of the Rolls. The facts of the case were as follow:—In the year 1855 Mr. Mare, the son-in-law of the plaintiff, carried on a large business as a shipbuilder at Blackwall, and banked with the Commercial Bank of London. On the 26th of January, 1855, Mare executed a mortgage to the Commercial Bank by way of security, as well for the amount then due by him to the bank as for all future advances up to £20,000. It appeared that the plaintiff had full notice of this transaction. On the 12th of February following, Mare executed a deed of mortgage of the same property to the plaintiff, to secure the amount then due to him, and all future advances. No sum was named in this deed as the limit to which it should extend as a security, but it was stamped with a stamp to cover £30,000. It appeared that the bank had notice of this deed at the time of its execution. On the 23rd of July in the same year, the Commercial Bank advanced £8,000 to Mare, and also made him several subsequent advances; but on some occasions they required the concurrence of Rolt, and also took additional securities. Rolt did not, however, give any sanction to the advance of £8,000, nor did it appear that he received any personal benefit from any of the transactions. It was under these circumstances that Rolt filed his bill to establish a priority in respect of what was due upon his mortgage at the time notice of it was given to the Commercial Bank over advances made by the bank to Mare subsequent to such notice. The Master of the Rolls was of opinion that the bank had no right to continue their advances after they received notice of the subsequent charge, because such subsequent charge interposed between the advances already made and any further advances which they might make, and therefore held, upon the authority of *Shaw* v. *Neale* (20, Beavan), that the plaintiff was entitled to the priority claimed. From this decision the bank appealed.

Mr. R. Palmer, Mr. Waller and Mr. Smith opened the case for the plaintiff, as it was an appeal from the whole decree.

Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Taylor were for the appellants.

Mr. Palmer having replied.

The Lord Chancellor, after going through the facts of the case in detail said the simple question for the consideration of the Court was the respective rights of a first and second mortgagee under mortgages for securing future advances to the mortgagor, each party having full notice of the other's security. Had the Commercial Bank, who were the first mortgagees, a priority over the second mortgagee in respect of advances made by them subsequent to receiving notice of the second mortgagee? It was impossible to decide the question in favour of the second mortgagee without dissenting from, if not overruling, the case of *Gordon* v. *Graham*. (2. Eq. Ab., 595, pl. 16). That case had been most unfortunate in its results, for it had never been followed as an authority, and text writers and judges had frequently expressed their disapprobation of it. The time had therefore arrived to investigate its foundation, for if *Gordon* v. *Graham*, decided by Lord Cowper, were right, the Master of the Rolls was wrong in the present case. Now, to uphold *Gordon* v. *Graham*, it would be necessary to hold that a mortgagor, having executed a mortgage to secure future advances, would for ever be precluded from borrowing from any other person, as it would be impossible to ascertain the limit of future fluctuating advances,—a proposition he (the Lord Chancellor) was not prepared to accede to. Under these circumstances he was disinclined to follow *Gordon* v. *Graham*, and must hold with the Master of the Rolls in favour of the plaintiff (the second mortgagee), and dismiss the bill with costs.

THE GREAT CITY FRAUDS.—IN RE DAVIDSON AND GORDON.

At the Court of Bankruptcy, before Mr. Commissioner Goulburn, on the the 13th of November, Daniel Mitchell Davidson and Cosmo William Gordon, colonial brokers and metal agents, of Mincing-lane and elsewhere, applied for their certificates. Mr. Linklater appeared for the assignees; Mr. Roxburgh for Davidson, and Mr. C. E. Lewis for Gordon.

Mr. Linklater said, the bankrupt's accounts represented features of a very extraordinary character. They commenced their accounts on the 1st of January, 1853, with an alleged surplus of £52,520, and after trading of one year and six months their accounts showed unsecured creditors, £36,023; creditors holding security, £231,329, and liabilities to a further considerable amount, to meet which was property in the hands of creditors holding security, £120,425; there were also good debtors, £378; doubtful debtors, £5,349; property surrendered, £2,600. The drawing of Davidson during the eighteen months had been £1,104, and those of Gordon, £2,660. The bankrupts had been members of the firm of Sargent, Gordon and Co., established in 1841, each having a capital of £3,000. That firm had stopped payment, and the new firm of Davidson and Gordon had had very large transactions with Thomas Webb, who at one time carried on the West Ham Distillery. Those transactions commenced in 1848, when they amounted to £50,000. In 1849 they were £275,000; in 1850, £335,000; in 1851, £500,000; in 1852, £598,000; in 1853, £492,000; and for the last six months they were at the rate of very nearly a million a-year. At one time Webb owed the bankrupts £184,000, and it would be necessary to refer to this and other accounts in order to show that the bankrupts' alleged surplus of £52,000 on the 1st of January, 1853, was a pure fiction. In reference to the bankrupts' certificate it was impossible to ignore the

fact that they had already been severely punished in having undergone two years' imprisonment with hard labour. It was not, therefore, without a feeling of regret that he should ask for a refusal of the certificates. One of the assignees, having regard to the punishment the bankrupts had undergone, was not desirous to press the case against them further; the other assignee, however, took a different view. He felt that it was proper to place before the court, from an imperative sense of duty and from no personal feeling, the facts of the case. Having previously failed as members of the firm of Sargent and Co., the bankrupts, after some trading, commenced their accounts on the 1st of January, 1853, with an alleged surplus of £52,000; but it would be apparent that this was a surplus only in figures—an unsubstantial surplus; in short, a fiction. On the 1st of January, 1853, the bankrupts were indebted to Messrs. Overend and Gurney in the sum of £151,277, the securities they held being of the value of only £15,400. In computing their surplus of £52,000 on the 1st of January, 1853, the bankrupts took credit for £305,600, in the form of good debts; but of this £235,000 were owing by Webb, and £50,000 by J. Windle Cole. These two debts, amounting to £285,000, were sufficient to show that the surplus of £52,000 was not a reality. There was no reasonable expectation at the time that Webb could pay the £235,000. The bankrupts, commencing originally with a capital of £3,000, had not been warranted in entering into the enormous transactions with Webb, amounting to the rate at one period of nearly £1,000,000 a-year. It was only done by means of an enormous system of bill-discounting. In October, 1853, the bankrupts discovered that spelter warrants, representing £60,000, handed to them by Cole, and deposited with Messrs. Overend and Gurney, were without value. In August, 1853, Webb offered a composition to his creditors, a portion of which Davidson and Gordon guaranteed. The bankrupts denied having any idea that the warrants were fictitious, until they clearly ascertained in October, 1853, that such was the case, Cole having then confessed the fact. The character of the warrants had, it was alleged, upon Cole communicating the fact regarding them to Mr. Chapman, been concealed at the suggestion of that gentleman. By allowing Cole and Davidson and Gordon to go on after the discovery that had been made, Messrs. Overend and Gurney's debt, which in January, 1853, was £151,000, and on account of which they held security to the amount of £16,000, had become reduced to £110,000, and against which they were believed to hold securities to the amount of £26,000 or £27,000. The creditors had applied to Messrs. Overend and Gurney for accounts between them and the bankrupts, but which they had declined to give. The present position of the bankrupts was, that after giving credit for securities their debts were £150,000, to meet which the property given up was of very inconsiderable amount. It was to be regretted that Messrs. Overend and Gurney, on discovering the position of the warrants, had not at once stopped the career of the delinquent party. The bankrupts had, however, after that discovery, gone on as long as they could, until in June, 1854, they absconded from the country, taking with them £1,500, after having made several preferential payments. For a time the bankrupts had lived abroad upon the money abstracted from their creditors, but the surveillance to which they were subjected becoming unpleasant they returned at length to this country, when they were at once arrested. They were subsequently put on their trial on three indictments:—the first, for the gravest offence which a bankrupt could commit—that of non-surrender—a crime which subjected the offender to transportation for a very considerable period. Of that offence they were convicted; but on appeal seven of the judges were in favour of

the appeal on one point only out of seven raised, and four against it, the consequence of which was that the conviction was quashed.

The Commissioner—They were not acquitted on the merits.

Mr. Linklater proceeded to state that, although thus declared not guilty of the technical offence, the offence still remained. The bankrupts were next indicted for embezzlement, but it was held that the offence being committed in France, where the Bank of England notes that the bankrupts took with them had been changed, the bankrupts were acquitted. They were next indicted under the 253rd section of the Bankruptcy Consolidation Act for obtaining goods under the false pretence of carrying on trade. Of that offence they were convicted, and it was probable that, in the sentence of two years with hard labour, the court had in some degree in view the magnitude of the offence of which the bankrupts had been guilty although convicted only of misdemeanour. It was due to the bankrupt to state that the assignees had no reason to complain of their conduct since their release from custody; they had done all in their power for their estate.

Mr. Linklater having put in formal evidence of the bankrupt's conviction

The bankrupt Gordon, examined by Mr. Linklater, said he was formerly a partner in the house of Sargent, Gordon and Co. That firm failed in 1847. The debts of the firm were (he spoke from memory) about £60,000. A compromise was effected. The creditors were paid various sums from 2*s*. 6*d*. to 10*s*. in the pound. He entered into partnership with Davidson in the latter end of 1848 or the beginning of 1849. Davidson introduced capital into the new business, but he would not say exactly the amount. A portion of the capital was derived from the firm of Sargent and Co. of which Davidson was also a member. Between them they had a capital of about £3,000 or £4,000. On reference to the books he found that in December, 1849, their capital was £5,300. Their present balance-sheet commenced on the 1st of January, 1853. Prior to that time they had made large advances to Mr. Thomas Webb, who carried on the business of the West Ham Distillery. They first became acquainted with Webb in November, 1848, when he (bankrupt) was introduced to him by Mr. W. Tindall, a great shipowner, the deputy chairman of Lloyd's, and a member of the Society of Friends. Webb purchased from them molasses for his distillery, and by the month of January, 1853, he owed them upwards of £200,000. As security for this debt they held produce £68,062, which they had purchased for him and not delivered. Webb was their debtor in about £220,000 or £230,000 on the 1st of January, 1853, but they held security for the whole of his debt,—produce £68,000; other things to the extent of £20,000, and a mortgage on the distillery and plant and everything connected with it for £144,409 on general account. They had the title-deeds of the distillery in their possession on the 1st of January, 1853, Webb failed in August or September, 1853, when they assisted him to arrange with his creditors. They paid 2*s*. 6*d*. in the pound for him in cash, and became security for him for a further 2*s*. 6*d*. in the pound. Webb retired from the distillery at that time, and they did not get from him any payment on account of their own debt. They then took possession of the distillery and carried it on on their own account. The title deeds of the distillery remained in their possession till the end of 1853. They were not, to his recollection, deposited early in 1853 with Messrs. Nicholson. A portion of them were at one time deposited with Messrs. Nicholson—only the lease, not the mortgages. The title deeds (the mortgage) were not deposited with Messrs. Overend and Gurney at all. On the 1st of January, 1853, Messrs. Overend and Gurney were their creditors for £151,277. They held

security for the full amount, with a margin. The security was in the shape of warrants. In the month of October, 1853, had an interview with Mr. Chapman and Mr. Cole with reference to some warrants held by Mr. Chapman. Previously to that interview they had deposited warrants for spelter with Messrs. Overend and Gurney. Did not discover, after depositing them with Messrs. Overend and Gurney, that there was no spelter to represent the warrants, but had been told there was none. Recollect an interview with Mr. Cole and Mr. Chapman in October, 1853. Mr. Cole, at that interview, said that he had lent the warrants to them, and, finding that he could not get possession of the spelter, he had taken the matter upon himself. At that interview it being stated that Mr. Cole had stopped the goods, and that Messrs. Overend and Gurney could not get possession of them, Mr. Chapman asked me how, then, should I be able to liquidate their debt, and the conversation turned upon that subject. Mr. Cole stated that as he could not cover the warrants for us he had taken means to cover himself, and that Messrs. Overend and Gurney would not be able to get the goods; and Mr. Chapman questioned me, in that case, how I could pay the difference in their account, and to the best of my belief I answered him and showed him how I could pay it. The goods were stopped by Cole; that he did not make any inquiry respecting the spelter, and that he left Messrs. Overend and Gurney to settle the matter. He had reasons to believe that a large portion of the spelter was delivered. It was his belief, at the inverview with Mr. Chapman, that he could not get possession of the spelter—from what cause he did not know. Mr. Chapman did not on that occasion require him to give a note for £120,000 in favour of Cole Brothers. He had signed a note for £120,000 in the name of Davidson and Gordon, payable to Messrs. Cole Brothers, and he gave that note on the understanding that it was going to Messrs. Overend and Gurney. He did not consider at that time that he owed Cole £120,000. The note for that amount was handed to Messrs. Overend and Gurney by Cole. It was not arranged at the interview with Mr. Chapman that that note should be given. It was not so arranged to his knowledge. Nothing was said as to the deposit of the title deeds of the brewery with Messrs. Overend and Gurney. He went into the particulars of the distillery business with Mr. Chapman. He did not deposit the deeds with Mr. Chapman, and Mr. Chapman had never told him that he had them. He heard from Mr. Cole that he had deposited the deeds with Mr. Chapman, but not the very next day; it was a short time afterwards that he heard it. They transferred the deeds of the distillery to Cole, in the first instance, to protect themselves in taking possession of the distillery against Mr. Webb's creditors, if he became bankrupt, as in case of his bankruptcy they might make the property doubly secure for themselves and their creditors. The consideration for the transfer to Mr. Cole was the amount they were indebted to Cole, £150,000; that was what we considered the value of the distillery. That was why it was put so. Messrs. Overend and Gurney had returned the warrants representing the spelter to the amount of £79,000. He never received any of them, but some of them were sold by Messrs. Overend and Gurney. He was speaking of the warrants to the extent of £60,000 which were stopped by Cole, and the goods representing which could not be obtained by Messrs. Overend and Gurney. He had heard that some of the warrants were delivered to the buyers by Messrs. Overend and Gurney. He believed the warrants were cleared to the extent of £20,000. Goods were delivered to that extent. When he gave the deeds and the promissory notes he considered the goods would be delivered, and as far as he knew they were delivered.

Warrants to the extent of £60,000 were presented at Hagan's wharf, and the goods were delivered to the wharfinger on demand. Expected the spelter would be delivered to the extent of £60,000. Knew of no person having a lien upon it. In October, 1853, exclusive of the warrants (£60,000) there was about £600 in Mr. Cole's favour. Mr. Cole had possession of the title deeds of the distillery about September, before the interview with Mr. Chapman, and before we were aware that the spelter to the amount of £60,000 could not be delivered to them. Did not find out that the remaining £40,000 sterling of spelter had not been delivered. Did not remember having any communication with Mr. Cole on the subject. After the interview with Mr. Chapman, he saw a large quantity of spelter at Hagan's wharf. It was not true that he had examined what proportion of the warrants were fictitious; he knew of no fictitious warrants. He did not recollect having so examined the warrants; it was five years ago. Mr. Chapman had not, in his presence, proceeded to examine what portion of the warrants were genuine or otherwise; but enough transpired to lead to the conclusion that spelter warrants to the extent of £60,000 were without value to Messrs. Overend and Gurney, because they could not get the delivery of the spelter. It was publicly reported that Messrs. Overend and Gurney held further warrants of a similar character. He should judge that Messrs. Overend and Gurney had sustained a loss to the extent of £40,000, by the spelter warrants; they obtained possession of goods to the amount of £20,000. Mr. Chapman did not, at the interview, use any unkind language to him. Prior to the interview between himself, Mr. Chapman, and Mr. Cole, he (bankrupt) had had an interview with Mr. Chapman alone; that interview was in the evening, and it lasted half an hour. It might have commenced at 9 o'clock, but he did not recollect that it lasted till 12 o'clock at night. Mr. Chapman mentioned to me about keeping the matter quiet. He said he wanted the matter to remain between ourselves. Cole got into difficulties soon after they (bankrupts) went away. If Mr. Chapman had sworn as he was reported to have sworn in respect to certain circumstances, he had decidedly sworn that which was untrue. Mr. Chapman had never charged him (bankrupt) with anything improper. He told Mr. Chapman that he had received the majority of the warrants from Cole, and that Mr. Cole had lent them to him. That statement was true. He (bankrupt) had purchased some of the spelter from Cole, and some was lent. Those lent he supposed turned out to be of no value—the amount of these he supposed might have been £40,000. When he gave the promissory note for £120,000 to Cole, the understanding was that he should clear not only the £20,000, but also the other £40,000—all were to be cleared. Owed the Copper Company in October, 1853, £14,000. Had no recollection of having previously given to Mr. Vaughan and his partners warrants for goods at Hagan's-wharf. Will not say that they were not three such warrants, but do not recollect the circumstance. We were agents for Freeman and Co., the Copper Company, ten years.

Mr. Linklater—Just tell me, Mr. Gordon, carefully, having regard to your employment as agents of Messrs. Freeman and Co., was that debt contracted in the ordinary course of trade? Answer that question honestly, if you please. Bankrupt—I will tell you how it was contracted. Was it contracted in a fair and honest way. Messrs. Freeman and Co. pressed us continually to make sales of copper, and we did so, but we made the sales to ourselves, and shipped the copper on our own account. That is the truth. Did you inform them you made the sales to yourselves? No; we did not. Did you inform them the goods were sold to any one else? In one or two instances it was so—to the extent, perhaps, of about £5,000. It

was our duty to send them a true account of sales we had effected. You gave security at the time to which I have referred to Messrs. Freeman and Co? Yes, we gave a promissory note and the acceptance of Webb and Money. You owe to unsecured creditors nearly £150,000. Yes. And on the 1st of January, 1853, you owed £86,859. Yes; but we did not increase any debt to provide for that of Freeman and Co. They went on from January, 1853, until the time they went away (June, 1854) buying goods and getting money upon them. He considered they were solvent all this time, even after Webb and Cole failed?

The Commissioner—When did you go away? On the 17th of June, 1854. Why? Because we could not meet excise demands to the extent of £7,000. Knew that there were other engagements coming due very rapidly.

The bankrupt, further examined, deposed to the manner in which himself and partner, having disbursed a sum of £1,600 in preferential payments, left for Ostend with £1,500 in their possession; how they invested £1,000 out of the £1,500 in Russia Railway Bonds, and then travelled about from Ostend to Aix-la-Chapelle, Cologne, Berne, Switzerland, Naples, and Malta, until at length the eyes of the police being everywhere upon them, they determined to face Cole's warrants and everything else, landed in Southampton, and were there arrested.

Re-examined by Mr. Roxburgh—On leaving they did not expect to be absent more than seven days, and they had no intention of avoiding their creditors. They did not for one moment anticipate proceedings in bankruptcy. The distillery had cost them upwards of £200,000. The profits upon the distillery for the nine months next preceding their departure had been £10,000, and that rate of profit was increasing. It would have returned a profit of £40,000 a-year by an arrangement with other distillers that they (bankrupts) should only make a limited quantity of spirits. Cole had undertaken that the warrants should be delivered. They knew nothing of the worthless character of the warrants. At one period they were in a position to realise a clear profit of £350,000 upon sugars. Mr. Vaughan was perfectly satisfied with their conduct, and was willing that they should continue the agency. At the time of giving Mr. Vaughan the warrant they believed it to be a good warrant, and they had not the most remote suspicion that the warrants held by Messrs. Overend and Gurney were otherwise than genuine warrants. They fully believed them to be genuine documents.

The Commissioner said it was very desirable to have Mr. Chapman here.

Mr. Lewis—Unfortunately, Mr. Chapman has given two or three accounts.

The Commissioner thought that was not so.

Mr. Roxburgh—Such is the fact. At Gordon's trial he said that Cole had admitted to him in the morning that he had lent to Gordon the warrants, and that, finding he could not get the warrants back again, he had taken possession of the metals himself.

The Commissioner—This is a very important case, and it is a matter of satisfaction that a gentleman of Mr. Linklater's ability is conducting the investigation. The case is one that deeply concerns the commercial world. It cannot be satisfactorily disposed of without the presence of Mr. Chapman; and I have no doubt the assignees will cause an intimation to this effect to be made to Mr. Chapman.

Mr. Linklater—After the intimation from the Court, I may say that I will at once put myself in communication with Mr. Chapman's solicitors, who will, I have no doubt, undertake that he will be present on the day that may be appointed for his examination. I can only add that the high

position of any party will never deter me from instituting the fullest investigation.

It was here suggested that Cole should also be examined.

The Commissioner—Is he in prison?

Mr. Roxburgh—No; his sentence has just expired, and he has obtained his release.

His Honour—His evidence will be necessary. The case is one that deeply concerns commerce; and if this Court is to be of any value, it must be thoroughly investigated.

An adjournment was then ordered to the 26th of November and on the latter date was once more adjourned.

THE LIVERPOOL BOROUGH BANK—IN RE DURANTY.—LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS.

THIS case came before the Master of the Rolls on the 20th November, on appeal from the decision of the chief clerk, who had placed the name of the applicant, a gentleman named Duranty, on the list of contributories of the Liverpool Borough Bank, now being wound up under the direction of the Court. Mr. Duranty, it appears, had purchased his shares some time between the month of July, 1857, when the statement which the Liverpool jury considered "false and fraudulent" was put forth by the directors of the bank, and the month of October in the same year, when the bank stopped payment. In the month of December last a call of £5 per share had been made on the shareholders, and this call Mr. Duranty, before he knew how far he had been misled by the directors' statements, appears to have undertaken to pay. Mr. Duranty having subsequently discovered the real state of things, now insisted that, considering the misrepresentation under which he had been induced to become a shareholder, his name ought not to be placed on the list of contributories. The chief clerk having decided against Mr. Duranty's claim to exemption, that gentleman appealed against such decision, when

His Honour confirmed the chief clerk's finding, observing that if the court were to take Mr. Duranty's name off the list there would be scarcely any limit to the claim for exemption upon similar pleas of fraud and deceit. As between the shareholders and directors such a plea—as in the late case at Liverpool—might stand good, but as between the shareholders and the public such a plea could not be entertained by the court.

Reports of Joint-Stock Banks.

NORTH OF SCOTLAND BANKING COMPANY.

At the twenty-second annual general meeting of the North of Scotland Banking Company, held in the banking-house on the 5th November, the following report was agreed to and adopted:—

It is again the duty of the directors to present to the shareholders their report on the affairs of the bank. The free business profits of last year have been larger than those of any previous year, and amount, after deducting income tax, and providing for bad debts, to £34,263 19*s.* 8*d.*, to which falls to be added £1,185 19*s.*, the balance brought forward from the profits of the previous year, making together £35,449 18*s.* 8*d.*, available for appropriation. The bad debts have been above an average of years, and will amount in whole to about £3,000. It is the intention of the directors to pay a bonus of 2 per cent., along with the half-year's dividend

at the rate of 10 per cent. They are to carry £8,490 to the reserved fund which, added to the dividends received last year on that fund amounting to £1,510, will raise the reserved fund to £60,000, and they propose to transfer £2,000 towards the liquidation of the banking-house property. The balance of profits, £959 18*s.* 8*d.*, they are to carry forward to the profit and loss account of the ensuing year. Considering the occurrences calculated to throw distrust on the management of joint-stock banks, which have taken place since last annual meeting, the directors think it due to their constituents to give some special explanations as to the present position of this establishment. As in 1854, and after the balance of every succeeding year, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the company, as well as of the profits, has been printed and circulated among the shareholders, they have thus far possessed the means of judging of the state and progress of the bank. The directors have earnestly endeavoured to maintain the securities and assets, both at the head office and the branches, in a healthy condition. It has been their practice of late years, when doubts arose as to the perfect safety of an account, to make provision directly for any possible loss upon it, and they believe that at the present time there are no doubtful assets for which adequate provision has not been made. From the surplus of this provision for doubtful debts, and some other sources, a fund has arisen which the directors hope may be sufficient, in the event of any unforeseen adverse contingencies, to render unnecessary an encroachment on the reserved fund. All charges of every description on the business, including costs and stamps of notes, are duly paid as they are incurred. The bank never re-discounts any bills, and besides the stocks held for the amount of the reserved fund, there is a very large sum invested in Consols, and other first-class securities, which may be promptly realised; and these, if realised at present market prices, would yield a considerable surplus above what they stand at among the company's assets. Dealing in money, which is the business of a banker, is certainly attended with some degree of risk, and it is necessary to watch carefully the fluctuations of trade, and the still more rapid changes in the fortunes of individuals; but with the exercise of prudence and vigilance, the profits of a business, such as this bank possesses, ought amply to cover every risk, and afford a good return to the shareholders. Since last general meeting, the directors have opened a branch in Montrose, which promises to be satisfactory in every respect. All the directors retire from office, but may be re-elected, with the exception of Dr. Cruickshank and Mr. Gibb, who, by arrangement, will not be eligible for re-election for twelve months.

Annexed is a statement of the assets and liabilities, and of the appropriation of the profits.

LIABILITIES.

Paid-up capital			£200,000 0 0
Reserve fund—			
Invested per contra	£50,000 0 0		
Dividends accrued	1,510 0 0		
			51,510 0 0
Notes in circulation			188,152 0 0
Lodged with the bank on accounts current and deposit receipts with interest added			1,476,692 16 5
			£1,916,354 16 5
Surplus			35,449 18 8
			£1,951,804 15 1

ASSETS.

Government and other first-class securities, gold and silver coin, and balances due by, and notes of other banks	£542,726	7
Investment of Reserved Fund :—		
£32,000 Stock in 3 per cent. Consols	50,000	0
£10,000 „ of the Bank of England		
	£612,726	7
Bills of exchange, local and country bills, cash credits, and other securities	1,319,078	7
Banking houses at Aberdeen, Auchinblas, Banff, Elgin, Huntly, Inverury, Stonehaven, and Aboyne, cost upwards of £25,000)	10,000	0
Dividend, paid last May	10,000	0
	£1,951,804	15

Appropriation of Surplus.

Dividend on paid-up capital—		
For half-year ending 31st March last—5 per cent., paid in May	£10,000	0
For half-year ending 30th September last—5 per cent., payable 5th November	10,000	0
Bonus, 2 per cent., payable ditto	4,000	0
Reserved fund (which will now amount to £60,000) ...	8,490	0
Banking houses, to further account of cost	2,000	0
Balance undivided to profit and loss in new account ...	959	18
	£35,449	18

THOS. BLAIKIE, Chairman of the Meetin
JAS. WESTLAND, Manager.

ROYAL BANK OF IRELAND.

THE annual general meeting of the proprietors was held on Wednesda November 10, at one o'clock, in the Board-room of the bank, Foster-pla Patrick Reid, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Directors, presided.

Mr. Copland (the manager) read the following report and statement assets :—

The directors, in meeting the proprietors at this the twenty-seco anniversary of the establishment of the bank, have the pleasure to repo that the nett profits of the year ended 31st August last, amount £33,949 11*s.* 11*d.* Out of this sum there has been paid to the proprieto in half-yearly moieties, a dividend of six per cent., and a bonus of six p cent., making together twelve per cent. on the year. The following deta of liabilities and assets, and of profit and loss, and reserve fund accoun will show in a more particular manner than has been hitherto followe the results of past operations, and the present position of the bank. T directors have been induced to adopt this course, not only from the gro ing desire of the public to be put in possession of fuller information th has in the majority of instances been heretofore afforded in similar cas but from a conviction of its propriety as being the most legitimate mea

of rendering to the shareholders and the public a proper knowledge of facts in which both are so much interested. As the statement shows unmistakeable evidence of the progressive improvement and sound position of the business of the bank, the directors trust it will prove gratifying to the shareholders. For some years past the directors have found the present offices of the bank quite inadequate to its increased and increasing business, whether as regards the necessary convenience and accommodation of the public, or the requisite facilities for the due performance of their duties by the officials of the establishment. They therefore determined on enlarging them; and having, for the more effectual carrying out of this object, purchased two houses in Anglesea-street, situated in the rear of the bank's premises, they obtained estimates from four different contractors for the execution of a a plan designed by Mr. Charles Geoghegan, architect, of which the estimate of Messrs. Crowe and Sons was selected, and the contract under it is now in process of fulfilment. The cost of this extension with its contingent outlays will be about £6,000; but the shareholders will, doubtless, be glad to learn that the expenditure, necessary as it is, will not become a charge on future profits, inasmuch as the increased value of securities taken against bad debts which were written off some years ago, will more than meet the entire amount,

Royal Bank of Ireland, 31st August, 1858.

Dr. LIABILITIES.			
To proprietors paid-up capital	£209,175	0	0
Reserve fund	77,000	0	0
Amount due by the bank on current and other accounts, and on deposit receipts	951,365	16	7
Balance of profit and loss unappropriated last year...	4,295	17	7
Nett profit for year ended this date	33,949	11	11
	£1,275,786	6	1

ASSETS. *Cr.*			
By bills discounted	£766,227	3	3
Loans on Government stock and other securities ...	279,873	0	10
Bank premises	9,056	5	0
Cash and Government stock on hand	220,629	17	0
	£1,275,786	6	1

Profit and Loss.			
To dividend and bonus for half-year ended 28th February last, at 6 per cent.	£12,550	10	0
Dividend and bonus for half-year ended 31st August, instant, at 6 per cent.	12,550	10	0
Amount carried to reserve fund	8,000	0	0
Balance unappropriated at this date	5,144	9	6
	£38,245	9	6
By unappropriated balance from last year	£4,295	17	7
Nett profits of this year	33,949	11	11
	£38,245	9	6

Reserve Fund.

To present amount	£85,000	0	0
By amount on 31st August, 1857...	£77,000	0	0
Sum appropriated from this year's profits	8,000	0	0
	£85,000	0	0

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. Atkinson (a director) seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman said he might be permitted to make a few observations in reference to the affairs of the bank. Their funds were kept strictly for the business of the bank. There was no such thing as granting money on mortgages, loans, or securities of any kind. They afforded bank accommodation on the most correct banking principles, and their funds were tangible and ready for action at all times (hear, hear). It was necessary to state this, as much had been said with regard to their extern directors. It was well they should know that a weekly abstract was made of the accounts of the bank, showing a weekly positive balance, and that this abstract was on the board-room table every Thursday, and accessible not to the bill committee alone, but to all the directors. A correct account was taken of every bill discounted, strict comparisons were made with the books, and the books and the bills should agree, as they always did, to the farthing. During the time he was their chairman this system had been pursued, and in reference to their discounts, he might add that the bank in every fair and straightforward transaction treated the public liberally (hear, hear). They had been pretty successful in their discounts, and during the last year their bad debts did not amount to £400 (hear, hear, and applause).

A shareholder said perhaps the chairman would mention the amount of the discounts of the bank during the past year.

Mr. James Haughton said the profits during the year were a sufficient indication that the discounts of the bank must have been large.

The chairman said he had consulted with his colleagues, and they did not see any reason for not answering the shareholder's question. The discounts of the bank for the year ending the 31st of August, 1858, amounted to four millions (hear, hear), and upon that sum their bad debts did not reach £400 (hear, hear). Their deposit accounts, about 4,000 in number, were actually balanced—principal and interest—in a word, all their transactions, both in bills and deposits, were squared with the utmost exactness and regularity to the very fraction. As he said before, they did not embark their money in stone, or brick, or mortar. They had no business with mortgages, or lands, or securities of a similar nature; they adhered strictly to their business as bankers, and their assets were at all times available (hear, hear).

Mr. Haughton said the reserve fund now amounted to £85,000. Had the directors formed any notion as to what the reserve fund should amount to before they stopped adding to it?

The Chairman answered that, according to the deed of settlement, they would stop when the reserve fund reached £100,000.

Mr. Alexander Boyle said that, referring to the statements of the chairman and the report submitted to them, he intended to bring forward a resolution, which he was sure would be unanimously adopted. They all felt, he was confident, that they owed a deep debt of gratitude to the

directors for the successful manner in which they had conducted the business of the bank for the last twenty-two years. (Hear, hear.) During that period there had been many seasons of sore trial for banking establishments; he need only mention the years '47, '48 and '57, in proof of his statement. That being so, they would all come to the conclusion that their directors were most inadequately paid for their services. All they received for their attendances was £1,200, and he was aware that one official in a Belfast bank—the managing director—received more than that sum for his services, while the other members of the directory were also properly remunerated for their attendances. He had not asked any proprietor to second the resolution he was about to propose, but he was sure it would at once get a seconder. He begged to move that for the past year and for every future year, the remuneration to the directors of the bank be, not £1,200, but £2,000 per year.

Mr. Haughton said he was satisfied they all concurred in the views of Mr. Boyle; but, considering that their gratitude was due to the present board of directors, and not to those who might succeed them, he would throw out for consideration whether it would not be better to give something handsome to the existing directors, and let the yearly payment remain as it was.

Mr. Boyle said he was obliged to Mr. Haughton for the suggestion, but it should be recollected that if any future board did not attend to the business with the same assiduity as the present board, it was in the power of the shareholders to reduce their remuneration. (Hear, hear.) At the same time, the present board seemed to be in the enjoyment of excellent health, and there was no reason to believe that they did not look forward to a long life and a happy one. (Laughter.)

Mr. Edward Fox reminded the meeting that those who had the power to make laws likewise could unmake them when they were found inoperative or unsuited to the objects arrived at. The subjects now under consideration had been so fully entered into by Mr. Boyle, that further observations seemed to him unnecessary. (Hear, hear.) He felt great pleasure in seconding the resolution of Mr. Boyle.

Mr. O'Connor said he agreed in all that had been said as to the debt of gratitude due by the shareholders to the directors for their management of the affairs of the bank. At the same time, he thought, there was a good deal of sense in the remarks of Mr. Haughton, and he (Mr. O'C.) was always averse to creating annual charges when they could be avoided. If, however, the directors expressed their approval of the resolution, he would support it.

The Chairman said he did not think the directors were required to express any opinion on the subject. He then put the resolution and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Reid vacated the chair, which was assumed by Mr. Boyle.

Mr. Quinlan moved that the marked thanks of the meeting be given to the prior chairman for his proper conduct while presiding, and for his constant attention to the business of the bank.

Mr. Peile seconded the motion, which was put from the chair and carried with acclamation.

Mr. O'Brien said, the sound judgment, business habits, and unvarying courtesy of their able manager, Mr. Copland, had tended in a great measure to ensure the success which resulted from their operations. He begged to move that the thanks of the shareholders be given to that gentleman.

Mr. O'Connor, in seconding the resolution, observed that all the officers

of the establishment did their duty w
entitled to the thanks of the meeting
The Chairman then put the resoluti
in it also the other officers of the ban
Mr. Copland returned thanks on hi
officers. He could assure them tha
induce him to do his duty, it was amp
acknowledgment of his services just
The proceedings then terminated.

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To the Editor of the

BANKERS' CLERKS' MUT

SIR,—Permit me, through the mediu
the desirability of establishing a Ba
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that I am borne out in my idea by th
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employer and the employed.

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P.S.—I enclose my name, and sha
known to any banker who will take th

EQUITABLE MORTGAGE.

SIR,—Might I trouble you for the favour of your opinion in the following case.

A customer has occasion for some temporary accommodation, and obtains it on his banking account; but, wishing to secure to the bank repayment of the money advanced, he hands them the deeds of property belonging to him, accompanied by a letter (unstamped) stating that the deeds are deposited as a security for repayment of any balance now due, or which may become due by him to the bank. Now, I wish to know what would be the situation of the bank holding deeds, accompanied by such a letter (unstamped, and containing *no* agreement to grant a mortgage) in the event of the insolvency or bankruptcy of the depositor.

Could the assignees oblige the bank to deliver the deeds to them without first satisfying the bank's claim? If not, What course could the bank adopt to realise the amount of their claim?

In the meantime, who would be entitled to recover the rents—the bank, or the assignees?

As this may be a matter of importance to many of your readers, I trust you will excuse the trouble, and am, respectfully, your constant reader,

Bolton, 16th November, 1858. A. F.

[The consequence of not having the agreement or letter stamped would be the liability to the penalty. The stamp should be the same stamp that is required for a legal mortgage.

The usual remedy of an equitable mortgage in the event of the bankruptcy of the mortgagor is, to obtain an order for the assignees to sell the property and apply the proceeds in liquidation of the equitable mortgage.

The assignees would be entitled to receive the rents until the date of the order for the sale.]

NOTICE OF NON-ACCEPTANCE.

SIR,—A bill is transmitted to me by a foreign correspondent, drawn on a merchant at Southampton, and referred in need to a London house. I send it to Southampton for acceptance—the drawee refuses to accept—the bill is protested, and I send it, with the protest attached, to London, in order that the referee may accept for honour. The bill is drawn at two months date, and due fourteen days after, I receive it. I wish to know if I am legally bound to give my correspondent notice of the non-acceptance by the drawee, before I am aware whether the referee will interfere, or do I injure any claim I may have on him by neglecting to do so?

Your obedient servant,

A SUBSCRIBER.

November 6th, 1858.

[We should think that it is not essential to give notice of the non-acceptance by the drawee in this case,]

the same, and a great boon will have been
medium of his exertions.

London, 19th November, 1858.

Resolved—That the report of the sub-
the best thanks of this meeting be given t
time and attention they have devoted to th

That this meeting having taken into con
by the original plan for a Country Banker
the later proposal of the London bankers
of opinion that it is advisable to suspe
country Clearing House; the various data
case it should at any future time appear d
to have an establishment of their own.

That it is very desirable that the propo
should be extended to the collection of loc

That the best thanks of this meeting be
for his long and unremitting attention to
of four gentlemen be appointed for the purp
the expenses incurred by the sub-comm
proposed plan for a Country Bankers' Cl
further to present to Mr. Gillett a testimon
valuable services he has rendered to countr
gentlemen be requested to act on such co
A. L. Melville, Oliver Heywood, Esq., S. S.

That the resolutions of this meeting
country banks, and that a circular be ad
requesting their subscriptions in aid of de

That the best thanks of this meeting b
his able and impartial conduct in the chai

COUNTRY CLEARING BY THE

The following plan has been brought
bankers for the purpose of clearing countr
followed out, though several of the pro
themselves of the proposed facilities.

RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF A CLEARING O

"1. A clearing to be held in the middle
among the London bankers, of cheques
country, placed in their hands for collectio

"2. Each London banker to remit fo
respondents the cheques drawn upon them
debit you £ for cheques enclose

"3. Country bankers wishing to avail th
their country cheques to their own Lond
their own name and address and that of t

"4. Any country bank not intending
collection to return it direct to the countr
address is stamped across it.

"5. Each country bank to write by ret
in reply, 'We credit you £ for chequ
in yours of . Adding, in ca
cheques, 'having deducted £ for che
at , and £ returned to Messr

PROGRESS OF FAILED ESTATES.

(*From the Morning Herald.*)

In the midst of the fraud and deception daily practised in trade and business relations, it is highly gratifying to be in a position to refer to the speedy fulfilment of honourable engagements, and to the several favourable instances which have occurred through the progress of the late panic, in which houses of established credit and wealth did not hesitate, when it became their bounden duty to do so, to suspend, in order to protect the interests, not only of themselves, but also of those who were interested in their estates. Among the earliest of the large houses prostrated was that of Messrs. Dennistoun and Co., of Glasgow, Liverpool and London, who, with connections in Australia and America, were under liabilities to the extent of upwards of £2,000,000. Notwithstanding the reputed position of the partners, and the knowledge of the existence of a surplus of at least £500,000, it was considered advisable, pending the fury of the storm, to arrest their business transactions, and to adopt measures for a liquidation. The certainty of 20*s.* in the pound, with interest at the rate of 5 per cent., was fully relied upon, since the accounts, when they were placed under investigation, exhibited the most encouraging results; but it was arranged to extend the instalments over a period running from January, 1858, to June, 1860. The assets were taken with due regard to ultimate realisation, and although in the aggregate they exhibited an enormous excess, it was considered desirable to make allowance for depreciation, &c. Even including a large margin, they still represented a highly satisfactory total; and as the dates for the first instalments approached, not only were these paid, but succeeding ones also. In this manner have they proceeded, rapidly realising their assets, until at length they have placed themselves in a situation to announce a further anticipation of payments, and to advise on the 30th of November their readiness to discharge the instalments due respectively the 31st of December, 1859, and the 30th of June, 1860. Circumstances may have in some degree influenced the value of the mass of securities they held, and a change in the prices of produce may have also assisted to bring about this agreeable conclusion; but at the same time the basis of business must have been very sound and its conduct well regulated to have ensured so favourable an issue, surrounded as their concerns must have been by disaster and supposed loss. An event such as this in mercantile annals, especially after the experience of the last ten years, deserves something more than passing comment, but it is satisfactory to believe that in addition to the case of Messrs. Dennistoun and Co., and those of the principal Swedish houses, who were unfortunately during the crisis temporarily compelled to suspend, there are others in which the liquidation will not be less punctual, though the engagements and proportional assets may not prove so large. The favourable adjustment effected in the estates of Messrs. Sewells and Neck; Messrs. Albert Pelly and Co.; Messrs. Rew, Prescott and Co., all engaged in the Swedish trade, with the prompt manner in which Messrs. Heine, Semon and Co., the German bankers and exchange brokers, provided for their liabilities, have already been more than once referred to, but failures have occurred subsequently not to be comprised within the actual pale of the late panic, though probably some of their difficulties originated in the depression which followed that revulsion. The firms specially indicated are Messrs. Maitland, Ewing and Co., and Messrs. Rawson, Sons and Co., both engaged in the China trade, whose affairs are in steady course of arrangement, with assets accumulating, and every prospect of a full payment of 20*s.* in the

pound. This is so far appreciable, as it shows that the commercial character of the country has not altogether descended to the depth of degradation supposed from the revelations made in other cases, though it is still difficult to close the eyes to the amount of fraud perpetrated under the guise of fair trading. Taking the number of houses which have paid in full, with the average of dividends declared under the various estates, it is thought that the results will contrast favourably with those apparent during and subsequent to the crisis of 1847-48. Only exceptional instances then appeared of 20*s.* in the pound, even among the best of the firms that suspended, and in this category may be included Messrs. Cockerell, Larpent, and Co., Messrs. Reid, Irvine, and Co., Messrs. Barclay Brothers, and many others. The appended list makes a respectable exhibition for the several houses stated, and while the figures, through the process of liquidation, may have varied, they have not, like in the principal of those put forward in the preceding period, turned out altogether fallacious and eventually exhibited serious deficiencies. In some of the cases the engagements were much larger at the date of suspension, but by the time the meetings took place they became considerably reduced.

	Liabilities.	Assets and Claims.	Surplus.
1857.	£	£	£
Nov. 7, J. and A. Dennistoun and Co..	2,142,701	2,935,992*	793,291
Dec. 5, Sewells and Neck	150,675	188,257	37,582†
Dec. 7, Albert Pelly and Co.	36,316	85,741	49,425‡
Dec. 10, Heine, Semon and Co.	93,084	130,916	37,832§
Dec. 14, Rew, Prescott and Co.	95,703	103,451	7,748
1858.			
April 3, Maitland, Ewing and Co.....	164,399	193,049	28,650
June 2, Rawson, Sons and Co.	422,151	457,399	35,248‖

* This item included Liverpool Borough Bank shares held by partners, £208,873.
† Private estates, estimated to realise £20,000, not included.
‡ Principal surplus, private property.
§ Private property, £15,000, not included.
‖ Separate estates of partners about £12,600, included in the account.

Notes of the Month.

Income and Property-tax.—A return has just been issued of the amount of property assessed to the income-tax, under schedules B and D, in the counties of the United Kingdom for the year ending April 5, 1857. This return also includes the amount of property assessed in some of the Parliamentary cities or boroughs. The gross amount of property so assessed in the counties of England and Wales, under schedule B, was £38,726,869; under schedule D, £17,845,658. In Scotland the amount under schedule B was £5,809,923; under schedule D, it was £2,316,169. In Ireland the amount under schedule B was £2,497,751; under schedule D, it was £1,321,627. The total amount of the assessment of the United Kingdom was, under schedule B, £47,034,552; under schedule D, it was £21,483,454. The total abstract of the amount assessed in counties, cities, and boroughs, was as follows:—England and Wales, under schedule B, £41,186,404; under schedule D, £73,511,927. For Scotland, under schedule B,

the amount was £5,932,156; under schedule D, it was £11,109,149. For Ireland, the amount under schedule B was £2,582,538; under schedule D it was £4,577,874. The total for the United Kingdom was, under schedule B, £49,701,098; under schedule D, £89,198,950.

THE FOREIGN AND COLONIAL TRADES.—It appears from an official paper that, as compared with 1843, the declared value of British produce exported in 1857, was an increase in the foreign export trade of 137 per cent., and in the colonial export trade of 132 per cent.

THE PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—The latest accounts published with regard to the revenue and expenditure of the country disclose several curious facts. It appears that in the twelve months ending the 31st of March last the amount of Customs duties paid on coffee was £481,408; on corn meal and flour, £486,026; on spirits, £2,299,963; on sugar and molasses, £5,587,816; on tea, £5,459,698; on tobacco and snuff, £5,272,471; on wine, £1,733,729; and on wood and timber, £580,571. The malt tax produced £5,326,022; the paper duty £1,119,433; and spirits were mulcted by the Excise to the tune of £8,963,874. The Excise department also derived £348,610 from railways, £1,424,662 from licenses, and £477,035 from hops. Stamps on deeds and other instruments yielded £1,331,788; on probates of wills and letters of administration, £1,187,228; on bills of exchange, £523,615; on receipts and drafts, £281,114; on marine insurances, £319,508; on licenses and certificates, £217,599; on newspapers and supplements, £153,419; on legacies and successions, £1,845,204; and on fire insurances, £1,356,069. The tax on lands and tenements yielded £1,142,173; that on inhabited houses, £754,044; that on carriages, £300,596; that on riding horses, £351,005; and that on dogs, £197,604. The property and income tax figures for £11,396,435; the Post-office (exclusive of expenditure), £3.038,112; and the Woods, Forests, and Land revenues, £417,908. "Miscellaneous" driblets form a total of £1,223,063. Of this sum the House of Commons fee fund supplied £45,058, and "conscience money" £8,322. The unclaimed dividends of the year amounted to £69,976. The East India Company paid £60,000 for pensions to Her Majesty's forces in India; and the trustees of the King of the Belgians repaid £35,500. The total income from these and an immense number of other sources was £70,869,017; but the expenditure exceeded this amount by £2,497,345.

EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW BANK.—The position of this bank, though almost forgotten in the greater magnitude of the Western Bank disaster, promises also to be the subject of litigation in the civil courts. It may be remembered that in February last one-half of the capital of the bank, or £500,000, was written off; but the shareholders, suspecting that the losses exceeded that sum, made further investigation, and the result of the negotiations following thereon was that the business of the bank was transferred to the Clydesdale, the directors of which estimated the assets of the Edinburgh and Glasgow at about £165,000 only, and agreed to give the partners in the latter concern stock in the Clydesdale according to the value of their assets as eventually realised or ascertained. An action has now been raised by certain partners against the trustees appointed in room of the directors of the Edinburgh and Glasgow for carrying out the agreement with the Clydesdale, the object of which is to obtain access to all the books, papers, and documents kept by the Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank. The pursuers allege that "at the annual meetings held in 1854, 1855, 1856 and 1857, reports were presented by the directors to the shareholders which gave a false representation of the affairs of the bank, as the directors well knew, in respect that they represented it as being in prosperous circumstances, while the reverse was the fact. Dividends, as out of realised profits, were recommended by the directors; and, accordingly, dividends were declared, and paid to the shareholders, during the years 1854, 1855, 1856 and 1857, upon the whole subscribed

capital of £1,000,000, while, before these years, more than half, and as the pu suers have been informed and believe nearly the whole, of the capital had bee lost." The pursuers point to articles in the original contract providing fo dissolution when one-fourth part of the capital was lost, which they state ha taken place at or prior to December, 1851; and they charge the directors wit having, in 1852, when a new contract was entered into, withheld the real stat of affairs from the shareholders. They also allege various other "fraudulen devices" to conceal the state of matters from the company. The present is, c course, only a preliminary action to enable the pursuers to prove their state ments from the books of the company.

THE WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND.—At the close of business on Thursda afternoon, 11th November, upwards of three quarters of a million sterlin had been paid towards the £100 call, and large sums are daily dropping in In connection with this subject we may state that summonses of declarato relief and payment against the Western Bank, the liquidators, and many c the gentlemen who formerly held the office of directors, have just been raise by Mr. John Inglis, of Brunstane Mill, near Musselburgh, and Mr. Coli Dunlop Wilson, of St. Vincent-street, Glasgow, concluding for repayment the price paid for their shares, and relief from the payment of calls ther upon. This proceeding, we need scarcely state, is quite irrespective of an unconnected with the action about to be raised against the directors at th instance of the liquidators, and which we should have thought, in accordanc with the best interests of the shareholders themselves, should have supersede all other actions.—*Glasgow Herald.*

THE BANKRUPTCY LAWS.—A meeting of merchants and general traders to place at the London Tavern, on the 8th November, Mr. Crawford, M.P., in th chair, to consider the two Bankruptcy Bills respectively laid before Parliamen by Lord John Russell in the House of Commons, and the Lord Chancellor i the Lords. The meeting had been called on account of the resolutions late passed on the subject at the Social Science Congress. The two bills we analyzed and their various defects pointed out, and a committee was appointe to consider upon any alterations, and to report to a future meeting. It wa stated that the failures dealt with out of the Bankruptcy Court, either b inspection or otherwise, are ten times more numerous than those coming befo that tribunal.

THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE WESTERN BANK.—It seems that the shareholde are now about to contest their liability to pay up any calls, and to plead the right to repayment from the directors of calls already paid. The *Scottish Pre* says:—"The 'Pleas in Law,' it is understood, will be nine in number—1. Th the Western Bank having, in terms of its contract, been when registered und the Act of 1857, *ipso facto* dissolved, no legal or effectual registration too place, and the company is not entitled to the benefit of the Acts. 2. Th liquidators, through this exclusion, do not represent the company, and are n entitled to levy or enforce payment of any calls, and especially of the call £100. 3. The company, having been at the date of these later purchases dissolved company, the transfer of shares to the names of the parties pr secuting, was not binding on them, did not constitute them shareholders of dissolved company, or subject them to liabilities as shareholders. 4. At a events, the parties prosecuting having been induced to purchase by false an fraudulent statements, and concealment practised by the directors, whic statements were adopted by the company, the parties prosecuting were n bound to make payment of any calls, either by the company or its represent tive. 5. The parties prosecuting purchased in ignorance and under essenti error as to the real position of the company. 6. They are not entitled t repetition of the £25 call, with interest, having paid it in ignorance. 7. The are entitled to relief and repayment from the directors of any calls, having bee indu-ed to purchase through false and fraudulent misrepresentations and co

cealment by the directors of the company's affairs. 8. The are entitled to reimbursement from the company and its directors of the price of shares paid with interest; and failing this of all loss and damage sustained. And 9. The parties prosecuting are entitled to judgment in terms of the summons."

MONTHLY CHRONOLOGY.

November 4.—Announcement of the suspension of Messrs. Plowes, Son and Co., merchants at Rio Janeiro.

6.—Dissolution of the Prussian Cabinet, and appointment of a new ministry with the Prince Hoenzollern Sigmaringen as president of the Council.

11.—Failure of Messrs. W. J. Grey and Son, coalfitters, of Newcastle.

19.—Suspension of Messrs. Pickworth and Walker, builders, of Sheffields.

23.—Suspension of Messrs. Cowan and Bigg, ship and insurance brokers, London and Newcastle.

23.—Announcement of the stoppage of Messrs. James Hyde and Co., of Honduras.

25.—Chilian loan of £1,400,000 announced at 92.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The only suspensions announced during the month of November are as under:—

Messrs. Plowes, Son and Co., Rio Janeiro, merchants.
Messrs. W. J. Grey and Son, Newcastle, coalfitters.
Messrs. Pickworth and Walker, Sheffield, builders.
Messrs Cowan and Bigg, London and Newcastle, ship and insurance brokers.
Messrs. James Hyde and Co., Honduras, merchants.

DIVIDENDS UNDER FAILED FIRMS.

Messrs. Gorrissen, Huffel and Co. who failed during the crisis, have announced a second dividend of 2*s.* in the pound.

BANK MOVEMENTS.

It is understood that the next Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England will be Mr. Alfred Latham, of the firm of Arbuthnot, Latham and Co. The successor of Mr. Sheffield Neave as Governor will be Mr. Bonamy Dobree, the present Deputy-Governor. The election takes place in April.

Mr. George Earle Grey has been appointed chief accountant of the Bank of England in place of Mr. Smee, lately deceased. With regard to the services of the latter gentleman the following resolution was passed at the Court of Directors held to-day:—

"Resolved that this court desires to record to the high sense it entertains of the long and faithful services of Mr. Smee for a period of fifty-eight years, of the high integrity of his character, and his indefatigable exertions in the discharge of his duty as chief accountant for twenty-eight years."

BANKING OBITUARY.

On the 18th November Mr. William Smee, Chief Accountant of the Bank of England, aged 83. Deceased had been upwards of fifty-seven years in the service.

REVIEW OF THE MONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1858.

The stagnation of business at the close of the year has appeared earlier than usual, and the state of things, financial and commercial, has latterly proved discouraging. This arises from the absence of activity in all departments. The mercantile community are now engaged terminating their accounts. Speculation at the Stock Exchange has become thoroughly torpid, and the transactions in Mincing-lane seem more than ever restricted. In consequence of this, the changes in values have been most unimportant and the operators generally openly confess that little expectation is entertained of any permanent improvement until the commencement of the new year. The interval of the next few weeks will therefore be occupied with the adjustment of outstanding transactions, the arrangements for 1859, and such other preliminaries as may be necessary to prepare for fresh adventures in the spring. Some few loan operations are in contemplation; but the only one that it is thought will be completed this side of Christmas is that for Chili. The amount, £1,400,000, to be raised through Messrs. Baring Brothers, at the price of 92. Early in the month the value of money was fully supported at 2½ to 2¾ per cent.; but since that period a revulsion has taken place, and the rate in the open market is not above 2¼ to 2½ per cent. Since the arrangement of the accounts in the middle of the month, the terms for advances on Consols have drooped from 2½ to 1¾ to 2 per cent., with a very abundant supply of accommodation.

So great a paucity in business connected with English securities has scarcely ever been witnessed as that experienced during the past month. The fluctuation in prices has been extremely moderate, and has not exceeded an eighth to a quarter per cent. *per diem*, and the advance gained one day has been lost the next. The operators, consequently, exhibit little confidence in the existing position of things, and the present price is thought only to have been maintained through the purchases effected on account of the dividend. The range has been to the extent of ⅞ per cent., but after the quotation of Consols ex dividend, it is expected some reaction will take place. Exchequer bills, when money slightly advanced in value, declined, in consequence of sales, but they have now partially recovered, the rates of accommodation having decreased.

Foreign stocks have not varied to any great extent, and the speculators have failed to push business beyond due limits. There has, at the same time, been considerable animation, the dealers having selected some classes as the channel of operations to a considerable extent. Spanish maintains firmness; Peruvian continues to advance; and Buenos Ayres and Ecuador each show increased buoyancy. The latter has chiefly improved upon purchases, the low value of the stock attracting notice. Russian has been firm, notwithstanding the various reports connected with a loan.

The operations in railway shares have not exhibited features of great interest; the market has on the average been steady; and the public now

appear inclined to support quotations. Under these circumstances, prices have been firmer, and the dealers less disposed to force sales in the adverse direction. This shows the general condition of business, and from the discussions which have recently taken place among the railway officials, there is some reason to suppose that the vital questions which have hitherto agitated the competing companies will now be brought to a definite settlement. French shares have improved, but Indian exhibit no remarkable change. The heaviness in this special description is matter of great surprise to most parties.

Joint-stock bank shares have exhibited greater firmness, but the dealings have not been on an extensive scale. The prospects of business, however, have laterly increased.

The following are the fluctuations in the English and Foreign Stocks and Railway Shares during the month just concluded.—

	Price on Oct. 28.	Highest.	Lowest.	Price on Nov. 26.
English Funds.				
Consols	98¼-98⅜	98⅜	97⅞	98⅛-¼
Exchequer bills	37*s.* to 40*s.* p.m.	40*s.* pm.	33*s.* pm.	37*s.* to 39*s.* pm.
Foreign Stocks.				
Brazilian	10 ⅛	103⅛	102⅛	103⅛
Buenos Ayres	80	86	79½	86
Chilian	—	105½	105	105½
Dutch, 2½ per cent.	66⅛	66⅜	66¼	66¼
Mexican	20	20⅜	20	20
Peruvian, 4½ per cent.	91⅜	93⅛	91	93⅛
Russian	112½	114	112½	114
Spanish	47	47⅛	47	47⅛
Turkish, 6 per cent.	94	94½	91⅛	92½
Ditto, 4 per cent.	105⅛	105⅛	105	105⅛
Railway Shares.				
Brighton	110½	112⅛	109	110⅜
Caledonian	85½	87½	82	86½
Eastern Counties	62½	62⅜	61½	62
Great Northern	105	107⅛	104	107½
Great Western	55⅛	56	53⅞	53⅞
Lancashire and Yorkshire... ...	95½	96½	94½	95⅜
London and North Western ...	90⅛	91⅛	89½	91
Midland	97⅜	98½	96½	97⅜
North Staffordshire	12⅞	13½	12½	13½
South Eastern	74⅜	75½	73⅜	74⅜
South Western	93⅜	94½	93	93⅜
York, Newcastle, and Berwick ...	93⅜	94½	92½	92½
York and North Midland	76⅜	77½	75⅛	75
East Indian...	107½	108	106	107⅜
Northern of France	38⅜	40⅜	38⅜	39⅞

THE GRAIN TRADE.

The grain trade has been extremely dull during the last few weeks, and the quantities of all descriptions sent to market being more than sufficient to meet all demands, in order to effect sales holders have been compelled to make considerable reductions, but even at such reduced rates transac-

tions have been, for the most part, quite of a retail character. The wheat recently brought forward is much improved in condition, and barley and oats turn out far better than was anticipated. For agricultural operations the weather has been most propitious, and from all parts of the country accounts continue to be received of a very favourable character.

The *Gazette* returns for England and Wales have been :—

Week ending 1858.	Wheat. Qrs. sold.	Weekly Average. s. d.	Six Weeks' Average. s. d.	Duty. s. d.	Corresponding Six Weeks Last Year. s. d.
Oct. 23	118,051	... 42 4	... 43 3	... 1 0	... 56 3
„ 30	111,450	... 42 10	... 42 11	... 1 0	... 55 10
Nov. 6	105,157	... 42 8	... 42 8	... 1 0	... 55 0
„ 13	99,283	... 41 10	... 42 5	... 1 0	... 54 2

The importations since the harvest of 1857 have been :—

	Wheat. Qrs.	Other Grain. Qrs.	Total Qrs.
Sixty-five weeks ended 13th Oct. ...	5,032,630	5,211,609	10,244,239
Four weeks ended 10th Nov.	230,194	502,309	732,503
	5,262,824	5,713,918	10,976,742

And the *weekly averages* have been :—

Sixty-five weeks ended 13th October ...	77,000	80,000	157,000
Four weeks ended 10th November ...	57,000	126,000	183,000
Less	20,000	More 46,000	More 26,000

STATE OF TRADE.

The reports from the manufacturing districts are not encouraging, but the demand for exports has slightly increased. For the next few weeks the transactions will be limited, though prices appear on the average to be maintained. It is expected that the business will generally improve at the commencement of the new year.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Some slight arrears in the shape of articles, reviews &c., stand over, but they will shortly be cleared off. Letters for the Editor should be addressed to No. 8, Birchin Lane, and forwarded, unless under special circumstances, on or before the 26th of the month. Orders for the publication and remittances to be sent as usual to Messrs. Groombridge and Sons, Paternoster-row.

Ebor.—Our correspondent writes to ascertain if draft-stamp are required in the following cases :—

1st. On the orders now sent by country bankers to their London agents on payment of cheques remitted through the Country Bankers' Clearing House? To this we have to reply that no stamp is necessary.

2nd. On a letter to Overend's, desiring them to transfer a certain sum to my London Agent? To this we have also to reply no.

X. Y. Z.—The circumstances are well known, but they have never throroughly been brought before the public.

A Junior.—The best books have already been indicated; but the new edition of *Doubleday's Financial History of England* brought down to the present date may be consulted with advantage.

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—*Daily Prices from 28th November, to 25th December, 1857, inclusive.*

	28	30	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9
Bank. Stock, div 5½ p.c. ½-year	216	217	216	216	216	218	218	217	217	218
3 per Ct. Red. Anns. - - -	90¼	90½	89⅞	90⅞	90⅞	90¼	90⅞	90⅞	90⅞	91⅛
3 per ct. Consols Anns - - -	91⅜	91½	91	91⅛	91¼	91	91⅛	91⅜	91⅜	92¼
Ditto ex. div. for opening - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	91¼
New 3 per cent. Anns. - - -	90⅜	90¾	90	90¼	90⅛	90¼	90⅝	90⅝	90⅝	91⅛
New 3½ per cent. - - - - -	..	..	..	...	..	..	98	..	..	..
New 2½ per cent. - - - - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77	..	..
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860 - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1⅛	...
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859 -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860 -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...	..
Ditto 30 years, Apl. 5, 1885	..	..	17¼	17¼	17¼	..	..	..	..	17⅜
India Stock (div. 10½ percent.	..	216	..	218	...	218	..	..	217	shut
Do. Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)	25sd	..	..	33sd	..	..	33sd	35sd	28sd	..
Ditto, under £500 - - -	..	25sd	..	26sd	..	25sd	..	26sd	26sd	35sd
Bank stock for ac. 8th Jan. - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...	..
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 7th Dec. -	91¼	91⅜	91	90½	91¼	91¼	91⅛	..	..	..
Ditto for account 8th Jan. - -	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	92½	92⅜	91⅛
India Stock for ac. 8th Jan. - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ex. Bills £1000, 2½d. *per diem*	par	par	4sd	4sp	par	par	par	par	1sp	2sd
Ditto. £500 do. - -	1sp	par	par	..	3sd	par	par	par	2sp	2sp
Ditto. Small do. - -	3sd	2sp	2sp	..	3sp	1sd	2sp	2sp	2sp	3sp
Ditto Bonds A 1858 3½p.c. - -	..	..	..	98⅝	..	..	..	98¾	..	99
Ditto under £1000 - - - -	..	..	..	98½	99⅛	..	..	..	..	99¼
Ditto B 1859 - - - - - -	..	98	98⅛	98¼	..	98¼	.	97¾	..	97⅝
Ditto under £1000 - - - -	..	98¼	98¼	..	97⅞	..	..	..	..	..

	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	22	23	24	25
Bank. Stock, div 5½ p.c. ½-year	219	219	219	..	218½	218½	..	217	217	218	218½	217	216½	CHRISTMAS DAY.
3 per Ct. Red. Anns. - - -	91⅜	91⅝	91⅛	91⅜	91¼	91⅜	91½	92	92⅜	93	92½	93	93⅜	
3 per ct. Consols Anns - - -	shut	shut	shut	92¼	shut	shut	92⅜	shut	93⅜	shut	94	shut	shut	
Ditto ex. div. for opening - -	91⅜	92	91⅞	91⅞	91¼	91¾	91⅞	92⅛	92⅞	93⅛	92⅞	93⅜	93⅜	
New 3 per cent. Anns. - - -	91¼	91⅝	91⅜	91⅛	91⅜	91⅜	91⅛	92¼	92⅛	93¼	92½	93⅛	93⅛	
New 3½ per cent. - - - - -	..	..	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	
New 2½ per cent. - - - - -	..	..	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860 - -	..	2	..	2	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	2⅛	..	
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859 -	..	..	..	..	1⅛	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860 -	..	..	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	
Ditto 30 years, Apl. 5, 1885	..	..	..	17¼	..	17⅜	..	..	..	17⅜	..	17½	..	
India Stock (div. 10½ percent.	219	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	
Do. Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28sd	..	..	..	..	..	
Ditto, under £500 - - -	..	33sd	26sd	.	..	35sd	35sd	..	25sd	20sd	20sd	..	20sd	
Bank stock for ac. 8th Jan. - -	..	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 7th Dec. -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Ditto for account 8th Jan. - -	91⅝	91¾	91⅝	91⅝	91⅛	91¾	91¾	92¼	92⅝	92⅝	92⅝	93	93¼	
India Stock for ac. 8th Jan. - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Ex. Bills £1000, 2½d. *per diem*	2sp	par	par	par	4sd	4sd	4sd	1sd	2sd	4sd	1sd	4sd	1sp	
Ditto. £500 do. - -	..	..	4sd	1sp	1sp	par	par	4sd	par	4sd	5sd	4sd	1sp	
Ditto. Small do. - -	..	2sp	2sp	2sp	1sd	1sp	2sp	2sd	..	1sp	1sp	1sp	2sp	
Ditto Bonds A 1858 3½p.c. - -	99¼	..	99	..	..	...	..	99¼	..	99¼	..	..	..	
Ditto under £1000 - - - -	98¼	98⅝	99	..	98⅝	99⅝	98¾	98¼	..	99	..	..	..	
Ditto B 1859 - - - - - -	98¼	98	98	98¼	98¼	...	..	..	..	98	..	98	..	
Ditto under £1000 - - - -	..	..	..	..	97⅛	98½	97⅞	..	..	..	98	..	98⅛	

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

				London Latest Prices.
Australasia - - - - - - -	£40 sh.,	£40	0 pd.	£82
British North American - -	50	50	0	57¾
Bank of London - - - - -	100	50	0	45
Commercial of London - -	100	20	0	21
Colonial - - - - - - - -	100	25	0	28½
City Bank - - - - - - -	100	50	0	58
London and Westminster - -	100	20	0	46
London Joint Stock - - - -	50	10	0	28
Oriental Bank - - - - -	25	25	0	33
Provincial of Ireland - - -	100	25	0	60½
National Bank - - - - -	50	25	0	36
National Provincial of England	150	35	0	78
South Australian - - - -	25	25	0	34
Union of Australia - - - -	25	25	0	50
Union of London - - - -	20	10	0	22½
London and County	50	20	0	28
London Chartered of Australia	20	20	0	18
Bk. of India, & Austra. Chartrd.	20	20	0	19¼
New South Wales - - - - -	20	20	0	45
Bank of Egypt - - - - -	25	18	15	16
Ottoman Bank - - - - -	20	20	0	18½

FOREIGN STOCKS (*28th December.*)

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent. - - - -	98½
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent. - - - - -	102
Danish 5 per Cent. - - - - - - - -	101
Mexican 3 per Cent. - - - - - - -	21
Peruvian 4½ per Cent. - - - - - - -	77
Portuguese Bonds, 3 per Cent. - - -	45
Russian Bonds. 1822, 5perCent. in £ Ster. -	107
Ditto. 4½ per cent. - - - - - - - -	98½
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cents. - - - - -	41¼
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred - - - - -	26¼
Turkish 6 per Cent. - - - - - - - -	97½
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Dutch 2½ per Cent. - - - - - - -	65¼
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan - - - - - -	98¼
French 4½ per Cent., at Paris, Dec. 27,	93f. 0c.
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	67f. 80c.

RAILWAY SHARES.

COMPANY.	Paid up £	Prices Nov 27.	Prices Dec. 29.
Caledonian	100	75¾	84⅛
Eastern Counties	100	54⅜	59
Great Northern	100	91	98
Great Western	100	49½	54½
London and Blackwall ..	13½	5⅞	6
London and Brighton ..	100	103⅝	106⅝
——— North-West.	100	94½	97¾
——— South-West.	100	87½	96
Midland	100	83	91
South-Eastern	100	62½	72
York, Newcsle. & Berwick	100	92½	96⅝
York & North Midland ..	100	79	84⅛

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Week

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32,

ISSUE DEPARTMENT

	1857. Nov. 4th.	1857. Nov. 11th.
	£	£
Notes issued	22,422,060	21,141,065
Government debt	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities	3,459,900	3,459,900
Gold coin and bullion	7,947,060	6,666,065
Silver bullion	—	—
	22,422,060	21,141,065

BANKING DEPARTMEI

	1857. Nov. 4th.	1857. Nov. 11th.
	£	£
Proprietors' capital	14,553,000	14,553,000
Rest	3,305,579	3,364,356
Public deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	4,871,944	5,314,659
Other deposits	11,910,670	12,935,344
Seven day and other bills	813,197	853,075
	35,454,390	37,020,434
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuities)	10,120,104	9,444,828
Other securities	22,628,251	26,113,453
Notes	2,155,315	957,710
Gold and silver coin	550,720	504,443
	35,454,390	37,020,434

The Exchange

	Oct. 23rd.	Oct. 30th.	Nov
Amsterdam, short	11 16⅛	11 16⅛	11
Ditto 3 months	12 0	12 0⅛	12
Rotterdam, ditto	12 0	12 0⅛	12
Antwerp, ditto	25 55	25 57½	25
Brussels, ditto	25 55	25 57½	25
Hamburgh, ditto	13 10½	13 10⅝	13
Paris, short	25 37½	25 37½	25
Paris, 3 months	25 87½	25 85	25
Marseilles, ditto	25 87½	25 85	25
Frankfort, ditto	119⅝	120	121
Vienna, ditto	10 48	10 47	10
Trieste, ditto	10 48	10 49	10
Petersburgh, ditto	35½	34⅝	34½
Madrid, ditto	49	48⅝	48½
Cadiz, ditto	49⅛	49⅛	49½
Leghorn, ditto	30 35	30 50	30
Genoa, ditto	25 85	25 85	26
Naples, ditto	42½	42	42½
Palermo, ditto	127	127	126
Messina, ditto	127	127	126
Lisbon, ditto	52½	52½	52½
Oporto, ditto	52⅛	52⅛	52⅛
Rio Janeiro 60 dys.'dte	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLIO

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per O
Foreign Gold in Bars (Standard)	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3
Mexican Dollars	0 5 0⅛	0 0 0	0
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
			Oct. 31.	Nov. 7.	Nov. 14	Nov. 21.
		£	£	£	£	£
1	Andover Bank	17,751	10,115	10,931	10,928	11,700
2	Ashford Bank	11,849	9,599	10,733	10,585	11,575
3	Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	27,643	27.533	25,076	24,517
4	Baldock and Biggleswade Bank	37,223	29,567	29,473	29,514	28,561
5	Barnstaple Bank	17,182	11,312	10,187	9,384	8,905
6	Basingstoke and Odiham Bank	24,730	22,560	22,038	22,611	22,072
7	Bedford Bank	34,218	30,320	32,205	31,352	30,603
8	Bewdley Bank	18,597	13,117	12,636	11,692	11,661
9	Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank	27,090	16,168	16,070	16,080	15,360
10	Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	23,332	23,450	23,325	22,942
11	Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	9,115	9,354	8,939	8,955
12	Blandford Bank	9,723	6,711	6,401	6,177	6,178
13	Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	71,433	69,011	67,355	67,830
14	Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	15,077	15,263	14,387	14,772
15	Bridgewater Bank	10,028	7,401	7,244	7,673	7,654
16	Bristol Bank	48,277	34,315	33,619	32,651	30,182
17	Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank	26,717	18,242	19,584	18,253	17,056
18	Buckingham Bank	29,557	25,944	23,880	23,715	22,237
19	Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	68,132	64,327	65,041	61,302
20	Banbury Bank	43,457	36,628	35,017	33,271	32,777
21	Banbury Old Bank	55,153	35,465	32,537	29,590	28,738
22	Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	35,997	34,308	34,262	34,290
23	Birmingham Bk.—Lloyds & Co	38,816	29,082	27,351	25,886	24,430
24	Bradford Old Bank	12,676	11,842	11,556	11,444	11,409
25	Brecon Old Bank	68,271	64,612	64,145	63,555	60,878
26	Brighton Union Bank	33,794	17,168	16,968	17,025	16,495
27	Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	12,331	12,474	11,924	12,358
28	Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,640	2,393	2,289	2,245
29	Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	13,689	13,475	14,339	13,725
30	Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	48,686	47,299	46,061	46,292
31	Canterbury Bank	33,671	32,690	32,051	31,631	30,145
32	Carmarthen Bank	23,597	24,865	24,606	22,694	20,904
33	Chertsey Bank	3,436	2,869	2,745	2,953	2,632
34	Colchester Bank	25,082	18,162	17,197	15,800	15,525
35	Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	39,779	38,596	35,429	33,934
36	Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co.	49,869	45,847	45,490	44,006	43,433
37	Coventry Bank	12,045	6,942	6,634	5,965	5,750
38	City Bank, Exeter	21,527	19,373	19,880	19,330	18,167
39	Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co.	77,154	72,883	73,524	72,835	70,112
40	Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	8,895	8,519	8,564	8,662
41	Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	11,612	10,331	10,004	9,631
42	Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	38,333	37,315	37,628	35,616
43	Derby Old Bank	27,237	26,568	25,872	25,635	25,381
44	Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	9,013	8,840	8,446	7,806
45	Diss Bank	10,657	9,799	10,385	10,319	10,150
46	Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	70,840	69,664	67,249	66,677
47	Darlington Bank	86,218	83,005	82,698	82,814	79,834
48	Devonport Bank	10,664	9,101	9,276	9,181	9,051
59	Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	46,673	47,642	47,266	46,374
50	East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	96,295	96,036	96,346	94,003
51	East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	52,343	52,717	52,216	51,734
52	Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	42,803	41,794	38,998	37,165
53	Exeter Bank	37,894	26,215	25,372	24,700	24,629
54	Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	7,659	7,147	7,001	6,235
55	Farnham Bank	14,202	11,326	11,160	11,210	11,792
56	Faversham Bank	6,681	5,833	5,923	5,781	5,628
57	Godalming Bank	6,322	4,978	4,977	5,359	5,594

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Oct. 31.	Nov. 7.	Nov. 14.	
		£	£	£	£	
58	Guildford Bank	14,524	13,068	12,619	12,692	
59	Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	28,101	26,774	25,902	
60	Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	23,550	22,063	20,060	
61	Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	20,697	20,633	19,943	
62	Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	49,962	48,537	46,577	
63	Harwich Bank	5,778	4,846	4,705	4,905	
64	Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	30,875	29,958	30,283	
65	Hereford Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	23,279	23,398	22,585	
66	Ipswich Bank	21,901	20,820	20,996	19,113	
67	Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	66,224	65,329	62,812	
68	Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	16,631	15,900	14,718	
69	Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	25,937	25,927	25,899	
70	Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	21,571	21,472	21,515	
71	Kendal Bank	44,663	46,034	44,251	43,793	
72	Longton Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,232	5,140	5,243	
73	Leeds Bank	53,357	50,876	52,358	55,265	
74	Leeds Union Bank	37,459	36,929	36,921	36,954	
75	Leicester Bank	32,322	31,887	30,030	29,593	
76	Lewes Old Bank	44,836	19,307	19,776	19,761	
77	Lincoln Bank	100,342	95,031	90,882	86,525	
78	Llandovery Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	30,843	29,805	30,186	
89	Loughborough Bank	7,359	6,145	6,602	7,124	
80	Lymington Bank	5,038	3,552	3,390	3,312	
81	Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	38,896	38,860	37,594	
82	Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank ...	13,917	12,535	11,670	10,847	
83	Macclesfield Bank	15,760	14,607	14,321	13,724	
84	Manningtree Bank	7,692	1,770	1,545	1,124	
85	Merionethshire Bank	10,906	11,212	10,632	10,240	
86	Miners' Bank	18,688	17,613	17,874	17,116	
87	Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	27,565	29,028	29,248	
88	Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	14,806	15,871	14,995	
89	Newark Bank	28,788	21,860	22,693	21,201	
90	Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	52,275	50,670	50,735	
91	Newbury Bank	36,787	20,275	19,277	18,680	
92	Newmark Bank	23,098	23,533	22,130	20,770	
93	Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	47,780	48,776	47,457	
94	Norwich and Norfolk Bank	105,519	96,385	95,938	93,580	
95	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire ...	10,866	10,291	10,187	10,307	
96	Nuneaton Bank	5,898	3,308	3,497	3,201	
97	Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	22,155	21,548	20,555	
98	New Sarum Bank.—Everett and Pinckneys	15,659	10,004	9,614	9,365	
99	Nottingham Bank	31,047	32,453	31,437	29,622	
100	Oswestry Bank	18,471	11,501	11,841	11,421	
101	Oxford Old Bank	34,391	33,164	33,905	33,117	
102	Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	7,677	7,755	7,651	
103	Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	10,729	9,615	9,518	
104	Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	44,488	46,056	44,433	
105	Penzance Bank	11,405	10,408	10,599	10,765	
106	Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	10,645	10,557	9,836	
107	Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	12,747	12,565	11,373	
108	Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	28,900	27,951	27,047	
109	Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	29,740	28,933	28,085	
110	Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	6,196	6,357	6,313	
111	Rochdale Bank	5,590	4,658	4,471	4,068	
112	Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	7,865	7,141	6,534	
113	Royston Bank	16,393	12,690	11,790	11,510	
114	Rugby Bank	17,250	9,955	9,446	9,182	
115	Rye Bank	29,864	13,719	13,836	13,038	

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Oct. 31.	Nov. 7.	Nov 14.	Nov. 21.
		£	£	£	£	£
116	Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	4,073	3,926	3,899	4,104
117	Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	27,793	29,006	28,305	28,106
118	Salop Bank	22,338	14,970	14,425	14,392	12,765
119	Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	24,685	24,653	24,261	24,710
120	Shrewsbury Old Bank.....	43,191	40,816	40,562	41,120	37,909
121	Sittingbourne and Milton Bank...	4,789	3,960	3,815	3,443	2,900
122	Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	11,460	11,486	10,737	10,260
123	Southwell Bank	14,744	12,367	12,323	11,945	11,872
124	Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,77[illegible]	2,809	2,973	2,954	3,110
125	Stafford Old Bank	14,166	14,021	13,333	13,166	12,481
126	Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	30,485	29,932	29,911	28,029
127	Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	24,165	22,741	22,895	23,295
128	Taunton Bank	29,799	29,817	29,328	28,278	27,134
129	Tavistock Bank	13,421	8,470	8,410	10,790	10,304
130	Thornbury Bank.....	10,026	10,168	9,808	8,937	8,931
131	Tiverton and Devonshire Bank ...	13,470	12,576	12,863	12,074	10,155
132	Thrapstone and Kettering Bank..	11,559	11,083	11,188	11,620	11,754
133	Tring Bank and Chesham Bank..	13,531	12,871	13,274	12,459	12,547
134	Towcester Old Bank	10,801	8,153	7,760	6,970	6,905
135	Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	8,744	8,513	8,724	8,292
136	Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	16,605	16,594	16,017	14,242
137	Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	12,055	12,764	12,298	11,100
138	Wallingford Bank	17,064	7,354	7,233	7,019	6,890
139	Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	24,100	22,344	22,066	20,937
140	Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	5,178	4,498	4,166	3,873
141	West Riding Bank	46,158	43,185	44,353	43,548	41,396
142	Whitby Old Bank	14,258	14,022	13,975	14,538	14,466
143	Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	19,797	18,573	17,747	17,319
144	Weymouth Old Bank.....	16,461	16,370	16,161	15,471	15,005
145	Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	37,718	36,952	35,243	34,968
146	Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	58,980	57,326	57,063	53,679
147	Wiveliscombe Bank.....	7,602	7,615	7,226	6,920	6,087
148	Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	11,403	10,640	10,985	6,475
149	Worcester Bank	15,463	5,926	6,242	5,736	4,865
150	Worcester Old Bank	87,448	80,062	74,294	72,480	66,906
151	Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	11,670	10,993	11,343	8,327
152	Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	45,595	44,297	43,520	41,912
153	Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	12,339	12,168	11,419	11,355
154	York Bank	46,387	46,086	44,575	43,216	42,468

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1	Bank of Westmoreland.....	12,225	10,114	10,259	10,850	10,488
2	Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	9,087	8,699	8,926	8,655
3	Bradford Banking Company	49,292	47,314	47,795	45,805	45,639
4	Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	8,727	9,862	9,520	7,360
5	Bank of Whitehaven.....	32,681	29,902	29,564	29,827	29,376
6	Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	18,560	17,454	16,464	15,637
7	Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	52,624	50,765	48,470	46,185

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
			Oct. 31.	Nov. 7.	Nov. 14.	Nov. 21.
		£	£	£	£	£
8	Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	10,051	9,861	9,738	9,735
9	Cumberland Union Banking Co ..	35,395	35,460	35,493	34,036	31,932
10	Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	26,347	24,434	23,260	21,811
11	Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	13,086	13,347	12,807	12,857
12	County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	117,069	118,814	115,420	108,665
13	Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	26,893	25,611	25,660	23,540
14	Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	20,323	20,199	19,812	18,292
15	Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	40,081	39,089	35,509	29,911
16	Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	20,120	19,306	19,463	18,325
17	Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	26,283	26,370	25,516	24,850
18	East of England Bank	25,025	22,741	22,775	22,669	21,568
19	Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	147,835	147,019	144,465	138,750
20	Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	18,931	19,152	17,678	16,889
21	Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	37,771	33,880	33,230	32,539
22	Hull Banking Company	29,333	22,702	23,421	23,105	23,297
23	Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	13,051	12,437	12,387	11,507
24	Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	42,332	40,847	40,040	39,210
25	Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,485	1,554	1,523	1,358
26	Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	24,350	23,702	25,790	22,915
27	Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	27,531	27,597	27,753	27,843
28	Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	2,956	3,043	2,773	2,947
29	Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	62,122	63,263	64,155	61,023
30	Leeds Banking Company	23,076	23,170	22,719	22,878	23,450
31	Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	77,950	73,341	71,547	69,071
32	Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co..	51,620	47,777	48,244	48,374	48,908
33	Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank	13,875	9,218	9,706	8,735	8,152
34	Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	9,925	9,590	9,484	9,271
35	Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	34,327	36,189	33,278	31,273
36	Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	26,293	24,373	22,561	23,047
37	National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	425,350	413,370	408,783	405,378
38	North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	44,962	43,843	43,816	41,891
39	Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	80,525	80,988	80,887	75,426
40	Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	20,865	20,811	22,610	19,717
41	North and South Wales Bank.....	63,951	64,486	61,000	59,720	57,145
42	Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	54,880	53,292	51,630	51,207
43	Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	2,058	1,884	1,675	1,601
44	Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	35,135	37,276	35,187	33,736
45	Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	52,053	51,855	56,837	52,386
46	Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	355,599	353,723	347,031	332,916
47	Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	43,934	46,580	43,890	40,945
48	Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	56,530	56,844	56,929	56,109
49	Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	20,381	21,334	21,870	20,418
50	Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	51,495	53,620	51,998	49,009
51	Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	51,259	51,520	52,285	51,939
52	Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	35,642	36,775	32,970	28,715
53	Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	14,115	14,220	13,901	13,935
54	Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	29,200	30,090	30,667	28,516
55	Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	29,998	31,426	29,667	27,817
56	West of England and South Wales District Bank.....	83,535	76,011	74,785	71,675	65,244
57	Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	72,367	73,473	72,328	71,141
58	West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	31,149	29,469	29,340	25,995
59	Whitchurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	5,440	5,707	5,114	5,068
60	Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	6,130	6,259	5,977	5,777
61	York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	67,920	67,851	67,731	68,770
62	York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	89,998	89,124	90,385	91,250
63	Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	112,675	116,570	116,165	116,228

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	Oct. 31.	Nov. 7.	Nov. 14.	Nov. 21.
154 Private Banks.....	£4,448,253	£3,778,172	£3,715,662	£3,628,731	£3,499,744
63 Joint-Stock Banks..	3,302,357	3,093,665	3,073,263	3,024,876	2,914,555
217 Totals	7,750,610	6,871,837	6,788,925	6,653,607	6,414,299

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending November 21st:—

Private Banks	£3,655,577
Joint-Stock Banks	3,026,590
Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above	£6,682,167

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the month ending 24th October last, it shows:—

A *decrease* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£190,276
A *decrease* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	112,102
Total *decrease* on the month.....	£302,378

And, as compared with the month ending November 22nd, 1856, it shows—

A *decrease* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£200,394
A *decrease* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	87,276
Total *decrease*, as compared with the same period of last year	£287,670

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	£792,676
The Joint-Stock Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	275,767
Total BELOW the fixed issues	£1,068,443

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH *and* SCOTCH BANKS *during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 21st day of November*, 1857.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt. of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	2,095,675	1,413,575	3,509,250	566,516
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	434,216	621,993	1,056,209	475,115
Belfast Bank	281,611	82,092	331,367	413,459	327,702
Northern Bank	243,440	46,267	248,043	294,310	171,527
Ulster Bank	311,079	74,925	371,616	446,541	259,990
National Bank of Ireland...	852,269	546,816	506,059	1,052,876	613,689
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	3,279,991	3,492,653	6,772,645	2,414,539

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	166,835	296,371	463,206	226,016
Royal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	118,206	187,175	305,381	235,971
British Linen Company	438,024	206,727	327,065	533,792	198,548
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	182,562	340,399	522,962	244,229
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	142,552	245,545	388,098	160,069
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	454,346	193,625	384,439	578,064	260,776
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	68,751	95,162	163,913	50,060
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	31,311	86,925	138,236	83,726
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	87,400	115,647	203,047	74,594
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	16,265	30,968	47,233	30,877
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	17,746	30,139	47,885	21,319
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	164,337	250,051	414,388	121,745
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	58,003	110,440	168,443	92,293
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	85,330	137,010	222,340	178,540
Caledonian Banking Co.	53,434	25,218	54,564	79,783	38,578
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	25,856	41,595	67,451	39,851
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,610,724	2,733,495	4,344,222	2,057,192

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO NOVEMBER 21, 18

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 21st November, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz.:—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks..	£6,772,645
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks	4,344,222
Total Average Circulation of these Banks for the past month	£11,116,867

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 24th October last, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£489,314
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	96,001
Total decrease on the month	£393,313

And, as compared with the month ending November 22nd, 1856, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£653,095
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	100,480
Total decrease on the year.....	£753,575

The fixed issues of the Irish and Sc Banks at the present time are given i *Banking Almanac*, as follows:—

6 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue....	£6,35
16 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue ..	3,06
22 Banks in all, allowed to issue.....	£9,44

The following appears, therefore, to be comparative state of the circulation:—

Irish Banks are above their fixed issue ..	£41
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue	1,35
Total above the fixed issue	£1,67

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at head offices of the several banks, during past month, have been as follows:—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks	£2,41
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks	2,05
Total of Gold and Silver Coin	£4,47

Being an increase of £82,502 on the pa the Irish Banks, and an increase of £381, on the part of the Scotch Banks, on several amounts held by them during preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO NOVEMBER 21, 185

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for month ending the 21st November, 1857:—

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending 21st November, as compared with the previous month:—

	Oct. 24.	Nov. 21.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England (month ending Nov. 18)	£19,971,724	£20,557,120	£585,396	—
Private Banks	3,845,853	3,655,577	—	£190,2
Joint-Stock Banks	3,138,692	3,026,590	—	112,1
Total in England	26,956,269	27,239,287	585,396	302,3
Scotland.....	4,248,221	4,344,223	96,001	—
Ireland.....	7,261,959	6,772,645	—	489,3
United Kingdom.....	£38,466,449	£38,356,154	£681,397	£791,5

The comparison of the month ending November 22nd, 1856, with the month endi November 21st, 1857, shows an *increase* in the Bank of England circulation of £495,0 a *decrease* in Private Banks of £200,394, and a *decrease* in Joint-Stock Banks £87,276; being a total *increase* in England of £207,409; while in Scotland there is *decrease* of £100,480; and in Ireland a *decrease* of £653,095. Thus showing that t month ending 22nd November, as compared with the same period last year, presents *increase* of £207,409 in *England*, and a *decrease* of £546,166 in the *United Kingdom*.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending November 18 gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £7,720,984. On a comparison this with the Return for the month ending October 24th, there appears to be a *decre* of £2,195,743; and a *decrease* of £1,948,586 as compared with the same period last ye

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the mo ending 21st November, was £4,471,731; being an *increase* of £413,909 as compared w the return of the previous month, and an *increase* of £94,263 as compared with t corresponding period last year.

Waterlow and Sons, Printers, Carpenters' Hall, London Wall.

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—*Daily Prices from 26th December, 1857, to 26th January, 1858, inclusive.*

	26	28	29	30	31	1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	16	18	19	20	21	22	23	25	26
Bank Stock, div. 5½ p.c. ½-year	Holiday.—Stock Exchange shut by order of the Committee.	217	..	219	217	218½	217	219	220	220	220	220	220	220	..	222	222	224	222	224	222	226	224	..	226	The marriage of the Princess Royal. Stock Exchange shut by order of the Committee.	226
3 per Ct. Red. Anns.		93¼	94⅛	93½	93¼	94⅛	94¼	94½	95	94⅞	95⅛	95	95¼	95¼	94½	94⅜	95	94⅛	94½	94½	94⅞	94¾	95⅛	95⅜	95⅛		95⅛
3 per ct. Consols Anns.		94¼	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	94⅞	94⅝	95⅛	95¼	94⅞	94⅞	94⅞	94⅞	94⅛	94¼	94⅞	94⅜	94¼	95¼	95¼	95⅜		95
Ditto ex. div. for opening		93⅞	94	93⅞	94	93⅞	94½	94½	95	94⅞	95	95¼	95	95	94½	94⅜	94¼	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..		..
New 3 per cent. Anns.		94¼	94½	93⅞	93¾	94½	94⅝	94⅞	95¼	95	95	95⅛	95¼	95	94⅞	94⅜	95⅛	94⅞	95	94⅞	95	95¼	95¼	95⅜	95⅛		95⅜
New 3½ per cent.		shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	..	..	..	..	..	103	..	..		..
New 2½ per cent.		shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	78	..	..	..	..	78	79	..	..	..	79⅝	..	..	..	..		..
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860		2⅛	..	2	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	2⅛	..	..	..	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	..	..	2⅛	2⅛	..	..	..		2⅛
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		1⅝
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860		shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	..	1⅝	..	..	1⅝	1⅝	..	1⅝	..	..	..		..
Ditto 30 years, Apl. 5, 1885		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17⅝	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17⅝	..	..	..	..	17⅝	..	..		..
India Stock (div. 10½ percent.		shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	220	..	..	..	220	224	221	224	..	224	..	221	221	...	220	..		..
Do. Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)		20sd	..	20sd	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10sp	..	15sp	12sp	17sp	..	..	..	..		..
Ditto, under £500		..	15sd	..	15sd	15sd	par	2sd	5sp	5sp	..	..	..	1sp	..	par	5sp	15sp	..	12sp	..	14sp	13sp	13sp	17sp		12sp
Bank Stock for ac. 4th Feb.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		226
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 8th Jan.		94	93⅞	93⅞	93⅞	94½	94⅛	94⅜	94⅞	94½	94⅞	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		.
Ditto for account 8th Jan.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	95¼	95⅛	95	94⅝	94¾	94¼	94¾	94½	94⅛	94⅞	95	95⅛	95⅜	95⅛		95⅛
India Stock for ac. 4th Feb.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	224		..
Ex. Bills £1000, 2½d. *per diem*		par	1sp	3sp	par	1sp	6sp	5sp	10sp	11sp	11sp	12sp	11sp	13sp	15sp	22sp	19sp	20sp	21sp	26sp	25sp	22sp	22sp	22sp	21sp		19sp
Ditto. £500 do.		1sp	1sp	..	4sp	4sp	..	7sp	10sp	11sp	11sp	12sp	10sp	15sp	13sp	18sp	19sp	21sp	22sp	26sp	26sp	22sp	19sp	22sp	21sp		23sp
Ditto. Small do.		1sd	1sp	par	4sp	4sp	7sp	9sp	10sp	8sp	11sp	14sp	11sp	15sp	15sp	18sp	20sp	22sp	26sp	26sp	26sp	22sp	19sp	22sp	17sp		19sp
Ditto Bonds A 1858 3½ p.c.		..	..	94¾	..	..	..	..	99½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		100
Ditto under £1000		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	99¾	99⅞	..	99⅞	..	..	..	99⅞	..	..	..	..		100
Ditto B 1859		98½	..	98¼	98¼	..	..	98½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	99	99	99⅛	100	100	100¼	..	..	100	..		100¼
Ditto under £1000		..	..	98¼	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	98½	..	..	99¾	..	..	100¼	..	99¾	..	..		100¼

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

				London Latest Prices.
Australasia	£40 sh.,	£40	0 pd.	£85½
British North American	50	50	0	60½
Bank of London	100	50	0	51
Commercial of London	100	20	0	21
Colonial	100	25	0	27
City Bank	100	50	0	63½
London and Westminster	100	20	0	46
London Joint Stock	50	10	0	31½
Oriental Bank	25	25	0	32½
Provincial of Ireland	100	25	0	60
National Bank	50	25	0	36
National Provincial of England	150	35	0	78
South Australian	25	25	0	36
Union of Australia	25	25	0	47½
Union of London	20	10	0	24½
London and County	50	20	0	30
London Chartered of Australia	20	20	0	19½
Bk. of India, & Austra. Chartrd.	20	20	0	19½
New South Wales	20	20	0	44½
Bank of Egypt	25	18	15	16½
Ottoman Bank	20	20	0	20

FOREIGN STOCKS (*27th January.*)

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	102½
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	103
Danish 5 per Cent.	100
Mexican 3 per Cent.	21
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	78½
Portuguese Bonds, 3 per Cent.	44¾
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 per Cent. in £ Ster.	110½
Ditto, 4½ per cent.	99½
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cents.	41½
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	25⅛
Turkish 6 per Cent.	98⅛
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Dutch 2½ per Cent.	65½
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	100
French 4½ per Cent., at Paris, Jan. 27,	94f. 90c.
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	69f. 30c.

RAILWAY SHARES.

Company.	Paid up £	Prices Dec. 29.	Prices Jan. 27.
Caledonian	100	84⅛	91½
Eastern Counties	100	59	63⅛
Great Northern	100	98	105
Great Western	100	54½	60
London and Blackwall	13½	6	6½
London and Brighton	100	106½	109¾
——— North-West.	100	97¾	100¾
——— South-West.	100	96	98½
Midland	100	91	94⅛
South-Eastern	100	72	75½
York, Newcsle. & Berwick	100	96½	97⅛
York & North Midland	100	84½	84

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows:—

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1857. Dec. 9th.	1857. Dec. 16th.	1857. Dec. 23rd.	1857. Dec. 30th.	1858. Jan. 6th.
	£	£	£	£	£
Notes issued	24,043,255	25,400,735	26,683,790	25,300,555	26,567,925
Government debt	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900
Gold coin and bullion	7,568,255	8,925,735	10,208,790	10,905,555	12,112,925
Silver bullion	—	—	—	—	—
	24,043,255	25,400,735	26,683,790	25,300,555	26,567,925

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1857. Dec. 9th.	1857. Dec. 16th.	1857. Dec. 23rd.	1857. Dec. 30th.	1858. Jan. 6th.
	£	£	£	£	£
Proprietors' capital	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000
Rest	3,493,918	3,524,832	3,524,040	3,556,708	3,606,805
Public deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	6,648,062	6,344,352	7,428,807	7,443,613	7,190,561
Other deposits	14,440,724	15,077,428	15,151,818	15,072,971	14,945,577
Seven day and other bills	811,222	893,754	876,438	827,405	550,023
	39,946,926	40,993,366	41,532,103	41,455,697	41,845,566
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuities)	5,434,022	5,446,131	5,492,756	7,541,491	7,785,300
Other securities	30,111,185	29,264,940	28,088,186	27,299,815	25,661,600
Notes	3,900,485	5,757,175	7,426,670	6,064,985	7,008,920
Gold and silver coin	501,234	525,120	544,491	549,406	539,346
	39,946,926	40,993,366	41,552,103	41,455,697	41,845,566

The Exchanges.

	Nov. 27th.	Dec. 4th.	Dec. 11th.	Dec. 18th.	Dec. 24th.
Amsterdam, short	12 3	12 10½	11 18½	11 18	11 16½
Ditto 3 months	12 3	12 3½	12 3	12 2½	12 1
Rotterdam, ditto	12 3	12 3½	12 3	12 2½	12 1½
Antwerp, ditto	25 90	25 95	25 85	25 80	25 70
Brussels, ditto	25 85	25 95	25 85	25 80	25 70
Hamburgh, ditto	13 14½	13 14	13 13½	13 12½	13 9
Paris, short	25 55	25 50	25 40	25 50	25 32½
Paris, 3 months	26 5	26 10	26 0	25 85	25 75
Marseilles, ditto	26 10	26 15	26 5	25 90	25 77½
Frankfort, ditto	122	122	122	122	121
Vienna, ditto	11 12	11 15	11 12	11 10	10 55
Trieste, ditto	11 90	11 18	11 14	11 12	10 58
Petersburgh, ditto	33½	33½	33½	33½	33½
Madrid, ditto	47¾	47¾	47⅞	47½	47½
Cadiz, ditto	48½	48½	48	47⅞	47⅛
Leghorn, ditto	30 75	30 75	30 65	30 70	30 80
Genoa, ditto	26 40	26 40	26 40	26 35	26 10
Naples, ditto	41⅝	41½	41½	40⅝	40⅝
Palermo, ditto	124½	122½	123½	122½	123
Messina, ditto	124½	123	123½	122½	123
Lisbon, ditto	52½	52½	51½	51½	51½
Oporto, ditto	52½	52½	52½	52½	52½
Rio Janeiro 60 dys.'dte	—	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars (Standard)	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9
Mexican Dollars			0 5 0½	0 0 0	0 5 0½
Silver in Bars (Stand.)				0 5 2½	0 5 3½

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTE.

PRIVATE BANKS.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
			Nov. 28.	Dec. 5.	Dec. 12.	Dec. 19.
		£	£	£	£	£
1	Andover Bank	17,751	10,206	10,130	9,169	9,046
2	Ashford Bank	11,849	9,246	9,420	8,555	8,726
3	Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	23,625	21,860	20,949	19,325
4	Baldock and Biggleswade Bank	37,223	27,777	27,394	26,724	26,251
5	Barnstaple Bank	17,182	8,365	8,366	8,580	7,830
6	Basingstoke and Odiham Bank	24,730	21,150	20,230	20,490	19,855
7	Bedford Bank	34,218	29,948	28,648	28,501	28,745
8	Bewdley Bank	18,597	11,048	9,862	9,831	9,436
9	Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank	27,090	15,039	14,847	14,801	15,439
10	Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	20,830	20,379	18,943	18,159
11	Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	6,816	6,145	5,656	5,214
12	Blandford Bank	9,723	5,874	5,670	5,573	5,434
13	Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	70,646	65,800	66,296	64,318
14	Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	14,620	14,902	14,147	14,368
15	Bridgewater Bank	10,028	7,361	7,210	7,679	7,281
16	Bristol Bank	48,277	29,780	29,200	28,572	27,178
17	Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank	26,717	15,888	15,777	15,488	14,699
18	Buckingham Bank	29,557	22,092	21,591	21,231	20,773
19	Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	58,821	56,434	54,448	52,521
20	Banbury Bank	43,457	32,507	30,955	29,855	31,305
21	Banbury Old Bank	55,153	28,075	26,400	25,297	25,500
22	Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	32,876	31,466	30,102	29,673
23	Birmingham Bk.—Lloyds & Co.	38,816	21,222	19,702	18,427	16,803
24	Bradford Old Bank	12,676	10,995	10,191	10,015	9,345
25	Brecon Old Bank	68,271	53,168	49,840	43,994	40,994
26	Brighton Union Bank	33,794	15,751	15,850	15,140	15,645
27	Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	13,096	11,566	10,018	8,683
28	Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,065	2,175	1,939	1,857
29	Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	13,439	13,140	13,779	13,410
30	Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	43,150	42,297	42,043	42,056
31	Canterbury Bank	33,671	28,727	29,545	29,492	27,605
32	Carmarthen Bank	23,597	19,495	19,022	18,749	18,570
33	Chertsey Bank	3,436	2,431	2,387	2,229	2,209
34	Colchester Bank	25,082	15,179	14,786	14,662	14,320
35	Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	32,910	32,656	31,150	30,467
36	Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co.	49,869	42,245	40,720	39,548	39,628
37	Coventry Bank	12,045	6,035	5,566	5,282	5,522
38	City Bank, Exeter	21,527	17,080	16,080	16,418	16,650
39	Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co.	77,154	65,883	59,795	54,486	51,878
40	Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	8,528	7,424	7,350	6,733
41	Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	8,963	8,514	8,887	8,228
42	Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	34,955	33,030	31,196	30,968
43	Derby Old Bank	27,237	24,057	23,562	21,622	20,863
44	Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	7,620	7,241	6,905	6,762
45	Diss Bank	10,657	10,282	10,231	10,154	10,197
46	Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	66,423	61,521	55,603	53,231
47	Darlington Bank	86,218	80,033	71,112	64,784	61,720
48	Devonport Bank	10,664	7,893	7,390	7,150	6,985
49	Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	43,730	42,947	41,210	39,185
50	East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	91,396	86,631	87,118	83,412
51	East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	52,540	50,563	47,683	48,238
52	Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	36,695	36,760	35,418	32,835
53	Exeter Bank	37,894	23,716	22,456	22,604	22,558
54	Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	5,996	5,985	5,652	5,494
55	Farnham Bank	14,202	10,857	10,965	10,737	10,207
56	Faversham Bank	6,681	5,918	5,506	5,393	5,467
57	Godalming Bank	6,322	5,140	5,020	5,153	4,556

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Nov. 28.	Dec. 5.	Dec. 12.	Dec 18.
		£	£	£	£	£
58	Guildford Bank	14,524	12,235	11,994	11,433	11,079
59	Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	24,371	23,579	24,372	24,046
60	Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	16,388	14,970	13,300	12,685
61	Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	18,028	17,124	16,639	17,424
62	Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	44,860	43,451	41,582	40,720
63	Harwich Bank	5,778	4,436	4,579	5,069	4,678
64	Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	27,612	26,142	25,363	25,472
65	Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	20,685	20,200	18,985	17,443
66	Ipswich Bank	21,901	17,977	17,572	17,610	17,532
67	Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	58,885	57,293	55,409	55,613
68	Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	11,646	10,648	9,584	9,356
69	Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	25,961	25,822	25,955	25,796
70	Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	21,623	20,738	20,184	19,647
71	Kendal Bank	44,663	40,273	38,369	35,804	35,098
72	Longton Staffordshire Bank	5,624	4,920	4,868	4,854	5,105
73	Leeds Bank	53,357	50,560	49,074	47,979	46,483
74	Leeds Union Bank	37,459	35,565	35,228	34,635	35,040
75	Leicester Bank	32,322	27,389	25,954	26,235	24,739
76	Lewes Old Bank	44,836	17,681	16,965	16,853	17,180
77	Lincoln Bank	100,342	82,985	81,697	79,506	77,234
78	Llandovery Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	24,948	21,768	19,473	17,549
89	Loughborough Bank	7,359	6,974	6,323	5,773	5,635
80	Lymington Bank	5,038	3,135	3,150	3,017	2,987
81	Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	34,638	33,345	33,185	33,120
82	Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	10,421	9,951	10,326	9,959
83	Macclesfield Bank	15,760	12,319	11,967	11,037	9,695
84	Manningtree Bank	7,692	664	628	360	259
85	Merionethshire Bank	10,906	9,295	8,548	8,141	9,945
86	Miners' Bank	18,688	16,187	15,188	14,351	13,725
87	Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	27,541	24,936	26,317	23,293
88	Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	15,313	13,277	12,486	11,615
89	Newark Bank	28,788	19,870	19,542	20,620	18,742
90	Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	46,276	44,356	43,909	43,150
91	Newbury Bank	36,787	17,059	16,774	15,316	16,102
92	Newmarket Bank	23,098	19,253	17,625	16,778	16,345
93	Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	47,516	47,573	48,200	49,823
94	Norwich and Norfolk Bank	105,519	87,996	87,640	87,425	87,280
95	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	10,866	9,533	9,383	7,709	7,505
96	Nuneaton Bank	5,898	2,983	2,809	3,060	3,122
97	Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	18,500	17,313	16,881	15,774
98	New Sarum Bank.—Everett and Pinckneys	15,659	8,514	8,661	8,579	8,264
99	Nottingham Bank	31,047	28,310	28,750	26,849	27,415
100	Oswestry Bank	18,471	9,566	9,560	9,463	8,287
101	Oxford Old Bank	34,391	31,355	30,774	30,667	30,251
102	Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	6,786	6,777	6,605	6,291
103	Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	10,142	9,964	9,755	9,725
104	Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	43,815	40,377	38,677	38,048
105	Penzance Bank	11,405	9,729	9,835	10,392	10,118
106	Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	8,924	8,570	8,168	7,577
107	Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	6,951	6,572	6,931	6,387
108	Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	24,885	24,233	23,888	22,993
109	Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	25,776	26,389	25,020	24,131
110	Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	6,450	5,875	5,676	5,202
111	Rochdale Bank	5,590	3,278	2,873	2,450	2,203
112	Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	5,965	6,235	6,285	6,442
113	Royston Bank	16,393	10,400	10,490	11,103	11,604
114	Rugby Bank	17,250	9,758	8,851	8,503	8,694
115	Rye Bank	29,864	10,930	10,919	10,034	10,030

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Nov. 28.	Dec. 5.	Dec. 12.	Dec. 19.
	£	£	£	£	£
ɔss Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	3,856	3,549	3,701	3,655
ıffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	27,284	27,170	26,467	26,616
ıdop Bank	22,338	11,355	10,572	10,628	9,760
ıarborough Old Bank	24,813	24,692	24,467	23,650	21,797
ırewsbury Old Bank.....	43,191	33,232	30,862	31,925	30,095
ttingbourne and Milton Bank...	4,789	2,656	2,645	2,260	2,050
ɔuthampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	9,525	9,630	9,140	8,985
ɔuthwell Bank	14,744	11,826	11,185	10,630	10,406
ɔuthampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,040	3,003	2,815	2,613
ıafford Old Bank	14,166	11,306	10,400	9,812	9,612
ıamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	27,346	26,354	24,321	23,009
ırewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	21,563	20,029	18,464	17,205
aunton Bank	29,799	26,336	24,651	24,105	23,662
avistock Bank	13,421	8,455	8,289	8,813	7,473
hornbury Bank.....	10,026	8,545	8,000	8,853	7,894
iverton and Devonshire Bank ...	13,470	9,589	9,195	8,850	8,879
hrapstone and Kettering Bank..	11,559	11,689	11,196	11,072	11,345
ring Bank and Chesham Bank..	13,531	12,248	11,665	11,116	11,100
owcester Old Bank	10,801	6,657	6,069	6,209	5,884
own and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	8,140	8,034	7,999	8,085
nion Bank, Cornwall	17,003	14,470	15,065	14,313	12,874
xbridge Old Bank	25,136	10,491	10,590	10,094	9,955
allingford Bank	17,064	6,695	6,574	6,438	6,424
arwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	20,031	19,871	19,597	20,037
ellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	3,426	3,174	3,128	3,085
est Riding Bank	46,158	40,800	40,623	36,683	34,675
hitby Old Bank	14,258	14,461	13,737	13,075	12,396
inchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	17,086	16,043	16,113	15,775
eymouth Old Bank	16,461	14,731	15,045	14,339	13,708
irksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	33,883	32,908	32,315	31,671
isbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	52,642	50,665	48,508	46,927
iveliscombe Bank.....	7,602	5,913	5,645	5,698	5,473
olverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	2,598	2,489	3,865	3,960
orcester Bank	15,463	4,294	4,275	4,069	
orcester Old Bank	87,448	60,666	58,939	56,612	49,955
olverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	5,388	6,139	6,700	6,690
armouth and Suffolk Bank.....	53,060	41,214	40,403	39,831	43,153
armouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	11,997	11,448	10,960	12,103
ork Bank	46,387	42,688	39,941	37,220	36,639

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

ank of Westmoreland.....	12,225	9,772	9,110	8,370	8,082
arnsley Banking Company	9,563	8,047	7,476	7,272	7,023
radford Banking Company	49,292	43,133	40,895	36,582	35,330
lston District Banking Company	9,418	4,698	3,912	3,661	4,445
ank of Whitehaven.....	32,681	27,487	25,438	24,655	24,146
radford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	14,307	13,092	11,830	11,685
arton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	42,843	41,463	40,980	42,705

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Nov. 25.	Dec. 5.	Dec. 12.	Dec. 19.
		£	£	£	£	£
58	Guildford Bank	14,524	12,235	11,994	11,433	11,079
59	Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	24,371	23,579	24,372	24,046
60	Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	16,388	14,970	13,300	12,685
61	Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	18,028	17,124	16,639	17,454
62	Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	44,860	43,451	41,582	40,720
63	Harwich Bank	5,778	4,436	4,579	5,069	4,698
64	Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	27,612	26,142	25,363	25,472
65	Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	20,685	20,200	18,985	17,443
66	Ipswich Bank	21,901	17,977	17,572	17,610	17,582
67	Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	58,885	57,293	55,409	55,613
68	Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	11,646	10,648	9,584	9,356
69	Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	25,961	25,822	25,955	25,796
70	Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	21,623	20,738	20,184	19,647
71	Kendal Bank	44,663	40,273	38,369	35,804	35,098
72	Longton Staffordshire Bank	5,624	4,920	4,868	4,854	5,105
73	Leeds Bank	53,357	50,560	49,074	47,979	46,483
74	Leeds Union Bank	37,459	35,565	35,228	34,635	35,040
75	Leicester Bank	32,322	27,389	25,954	26,235	24,739
76	Lewes Old Bank	44,836	17,681	16,965	16,853	17,180
77	Lincoln Bank	100,342	82,985	81,697	79,506	77,234
78	Llandovery Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	24,948	21,768	19,473	17,549
89	Loughborough Bank	7,359	6,974	6,323	5,773	5,635
80	Lymington Bank	5,038	3,135	3,150	3,017	2,987
81	Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	34,638	33,345	33,185	33,120
82	Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	10,421	9,951	10,326	9,959
83	Macclesfield Bank	15,760	12,319	11,967	11,037	9,695
84	Manningtree Bank	7,692	664	628	360	259
85	Merionethshire Bank	10,906	9,295	8,548	8,141	9,945
86	Miners' Bank	18,688	16,187	15,188	14,351	13,725
87	Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	27,541	24,936	26,317	23,290
88	Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	15,313	13,277	12,486	11,615
89	Newark Bank	28,788	19,870	19,542	20,620	18,742
90	Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	46,276	44,356	43,909	43,150
91	Newbury Bank	36,787	17,059	16,774	15,316	16,102
92	Newmarket Bank	23,098	19,253	17,625	16,778	16,348
93	Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	47,516	47,573	48,200	49,829
94	Norwich and Norfolk Bank	105,519	87,996	87,640	87,425	87,580
95	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	10,866	9,533	9,383	7,709	7,508
96	Nuneaton Bank	5,898	2,983	2,809	3,060	3,122
97	Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	18,500	17,313	16,881	15,774
98	New Sarum Bank.—Everett and Pinckneys	15,659	8,514	8,661	8,579	8,264
99	Nottingham Bank	31,047	28,310	28,750	26,849	27,425
100	Oswestry Bank	18,471	9,566	9,560	9,463	8,287
101	Oxford Old Bank	34,391	31,355	30,774	30,667	30,257
102	Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	6,786	6,777	6,605	6,291
103	Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	10,142	9,964	9,755	9,725
104	Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	43,815	40,377	38,677	38,046
105	Penzance Bank	11,405	9,729	9,835	10,392	10,118
106	Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	8,924	8,570	8,168	7,577
107	Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	6,951	6,572	6,931	6,367
108	Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	24,885	24,233	23,888	22,993
109	Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	25,776	26,389	25,020	24,131
110	Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	6,450	5,875	5,676	5,202
111	Rochdale Bank	5,590	3,278	2,873	2,450	2,203
112	Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	5,965	6,235	6,285	6,425
113	Royston Bank	16,393	10,400	10,490	11,103	11,604
114	Rugby Bank	17,250	9,758	8,851	8,503	8,694
115	Rye Bank	19,864	10,930	10,929	10,034	10,030

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Nov. 28.	Dec. 5.	Dec. 12.	Dec. 19.
		£	£	£	£	£
116	Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	3,856	3,549	3,701	3,655
117	Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	27,284	27,170	26,467	26,616
118	Salop Bank	22,338	11,355	10,572	10,628	9,760
119	Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	24,692	24,467	23,650	21,797
120	Shrewsbury Old Bank.....	43,191	33,232	30,862	31,925	30,095
121	Sittingbourne and Milton Bank...	4,789	2,656	2,645	2,260	2,050
122	Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	9,525	9,630	9,140	8,985
123	Southwell Bank	14,744	11,826	11,185	10,630	10,406
124	Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,040	3,003	2,815	2,613
125	Stafford Old Bank	14,166	11,306	10,400	9,812	9,612
126	Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	27,346	26,354	24,321	23,009
127	Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	21,563	20,029	18,464	17,205
128	Taunton Bank	29,799	26,336	24,651	24,105	23,662
129	Tavistock Bank	13,421	8,455	8,289	8,813	7,473
130	Thornbury Bank.....	10,026	8,545	8,000	8,853	7,894
131	Tiverton and Devonshire Bank...	13,470	9,589	9,195	8,850	8,879
132	Thrapstone and Kettering Bank..	11,559	11,689	11,196	11,072	11,345
133	Tring Bank and Chesham Bank..	13,531	12,248	11,665	11,116	11,100
134	Towcester Old Bank	10,801	6,657	6,069	6,209	5,884
135	Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	8,140	8,034	7,999	8,085
136	Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	14,470	15,065	14,313	12,874
137	Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	10,491	10,590	10,094	9,955
138	Wallingford Bank	17,064	6,695	6,574	6,438	6,424
139	Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	20,031	19,871	19,597	20,037
140	Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	3,426	3,174	3,128	3,085
141	West Riding Bank	46,158	40,800	40,623	36,683	34,675
142	Whitby Old Bank	14,258	14,461	13,737	13,075	12,396
143	Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	17,086	16,043	16,113	15,775
144	Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	14,731	15,045	14,339	13,708
145	Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	33,883	32,908	32,315	31,671
146	Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	52,642	50,665	48,508	46,927
147	Wiveliscombe Bank.....	7,602	5,913	5,645	5,698	5,473
148	Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	2,598	2,489	3,865	3,960
149	Worcester Bank	15,463	4,294	4,275	4,069	
150	Worcester Old Bank	87,448	60,666	58,939	56,612	49,955
151	Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	5,388	6,139	6,700	6,690
152	Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	41,214	40,403	39,831	43,153
153	Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	11,997	11,448	10,960	12,103
154	York Bank	46,387	42,688	39,941	37,220	36,639

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1	Bank of Westmoreland.....	12,225	9,772	9,110	8,370	8,082
2	Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	8,047	7,476	7,272	7,023
3	Bradford Banking Company	49,292	43,133	40,895	36,582	35,330
4	Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	4,698	3,912	3,661	4,445
5	Bank of Whitehaven.....	32,681	27,487	25,438	24,655	24,146
6	Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	14,307	13,092	11,830	11,685
7	Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	42,843	41,463	40,980	42,705

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Nov. 28.	Dec. 5.	Dec. 12.	
		£	£	£	£	
8	Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	10,317	9,919	9,596	
9	Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	30,582	29,587	28,213	28
10	Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	21,800	20,358	20,241	19
11	Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	12,607	11,329	10,777	10
12	County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	101,876	98,810	97,734	95
13	Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	23,417	22,132	19,947	19
14	Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	17,517	16,352	15,370	14
15	Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	21,511	17,836	18,239	18
16	Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	17,381	16,346	15,320	16
17	Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	24,115	21,133	18,031	16
18	East of England Bank	25,025	21,860	22,003	22,535	22
19	Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	130,469	126,838	123,265	119
20	Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	16,383	16,270	15,487	13
21	Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	29,314	25,842	27,899	27
22	Hull Banking Company	29,333	23,298	22,870	20,784	20
23	Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	9,192	7,218	5,747	4
24	Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	35,165	32,143	30,226	30
25	Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,393	1,510	1,519	1
26	Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	19,500	17,222	16,119	15
27	Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	27,415	26,625	25,004	23
28	Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	2,563	2,139	2,090	2
29	Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	58,400	54,492	51,533	49
30	Leeds Banking Company	23,076	22,803	23,139	22,602	23
31	Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	63,485	59,459	59,805	56
32	Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co..	51,620	49,616	49,126	46,858	45
33	Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank	13,875	8,239	8,398	10,144	8
34	Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	7,504	7,275	8,096	7
35	Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	30,264	28,833	25,873	23
36	Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	22,745	22,156	19,792	21
37	National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	386,240	370,139	358,648	351
38	North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	41,025	39,397	36,504	33
39	Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	74,464	76,464	71,682	70
40	Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	17,935	17,247	16,268	15
41	North and South Wales Bank.....	63,951	49,960	45,982	43,958	41
42	Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	48,069	44,424	44,477	42
43	Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	1,470	1,286	1,157	1
44	Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	32,653	31,056	29,396	29
45	Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	50,899	48,337	47,525	45
46	Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	317,955	305,650	298,700	292
47	Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	36,101	35,720	33,005	32
48	Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	54,592	51,755	48,359	46
49	Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	19,978	19,637	19,154	18
50	Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	45,162	43,776	42,412	40
51	Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	51,705	49,867	48,566	47
52	Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	28,099	27,545	15,240	7
53	Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	14,052	13,391	12,678	11
54	Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	24,817	23,008	21,350	20
55	Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	26,694	25,547	24,700	24
56	West of England and South Wales District Bank.....	83,535	62,117	57,297	55,160	52
57	Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	69,116	65,323	65,037	65
58	West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	23,287	21,341	22,162	23
59	Whitchurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	4,380	3,574	3,253	3
60	Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	5,240	5,199	5,152	4
61	York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	71,331	64,934	59,439	59
62	York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	93,750	88,440	83,361	80
63	Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	117,675	106,372	100,912	99

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	Nov. 28.	Dec. 5.	Dec. 12.	Dec. 19.
154 Private Banks.....	£4,448,253	£3,269,052	£3,239,479	£3,137,425	£3,052,625
63 Joint-Stock Banks..	3,302,357	2,779,784	2,641,454	2,530,471	2,457,487
217 Totals	7,750,610	6,048,836	5,880,933	5,667,896	5,510,112

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending December 19th:—

Private Banks	£3,174,645
Joint-Stock Banks	2,602,299
Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above	£5,776,944

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the month ending 21st November last, it shows:—

A *decrease* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£480,932
A *decrease* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	424,291
Total *decrease* on the month.....	£905,223

And, as compared with the month ending December 20th, 1856, it shows—

A *decrease* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£525,076
A *decrease* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	442,596
Total *decrease*, as compared with the same period of last year	£967,672

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	£1,273,608
The Joint-Stock Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	700,058
Total BELOW the fixed issues	£1,973,666

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH *and* SCOTCH BANKS *during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 19th day of December*, 1857.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt. of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	1,979,200	1,323,300	3,302,500	555,501
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	370,023	550,829	920,852	534,510
Belfast Bank	281,611	59,008	278,210	337,219	320,848
Northern Bank	243,440	36,162	212,809	248,972	186,745
Ulster Bank	311,079	59,042	309,926	368,968	223,661
National Bank of Ireland...	852,269	460,745	436,467	897,212	599,359
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,964,180	3,111,541	6,075,723	2,420,624

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	192,377	329,272	521,649	321,396
Royal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	169,988	228,604	398,592	324,683
British Linen Company	438,024	215,766	358,775	574,541	243,040
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	201,485	353,860	555,345	278,439
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	148,292	258,604	406,896	193,108
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	454,346	189,671	381,054	570,725	240,906
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	59,811	86,201	146,012	38,772
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	52,186	85,627	137,813	78,155
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	87,241	115,263	202,504	70,143
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	15,950	29,729	45,680	44,526
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	14,272	26,167	40,439	22,277
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	138,069	143,021	281,090	93,837
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	87,703	114,758	202,462	142,296
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	23,036	43,818	66,854	43,744
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	26,105	58,753	84,858	41,360
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	25,497	44,293	69,791	33,532
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,647,449	2,657,799	4,305,251	2,210,214

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO DECEMBER 19, 1857.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 19th December, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz.:—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks	£6,075,723
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks	4,305,251
Total Average Circulation of these Banks for the past month	£10,380,974

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 21st November last, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£696,922
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	38,971
Total decrease on the month	£735,893

And, as compared with the month ending December 20th, 1856, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£1,231,580
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	44,132
Total decrease on the year	£1,275,712

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows:—

6 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue	£6,354,494
16 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue	3,087,249
22 Banks in all, allowed to issue	£9,441,743

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation:—

Irish Banks are below their fixed issue	£278,771
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue	1,218,042
Total above the fixed issue	£939,271

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows:—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks	£2,429,694
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks	2,216,214
Total of Gold and Silver Coin	£4,630,838

Being an increase of £6,085 on the part of the Irish Banks, and an increase of £153,022 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO DECEMBER 19, 1857.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 19th December, 1857:—

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending 19th December, as compared with the previous month:—

	Nov. 21.	Dec. 19.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England (month ending Dec. 16)	£20,557,120	£20,557,266	£146	—
Private Banks	3,655,577	3,174,645	—	£480,932
Joint-Stock Banks	3,026,590	2,602,299	—	424,291
Total in England	27,239,287	26,334,210	146	905,223
Scotland	4,344,223	4,305,251	—	38,971
Ireland	6,772,645	6,075,723	—	696,922
United Kingdom	£38,356,154	£36,715,184	£146	£1,641,116

The comparison of the month ending December 20th, 1856, with the month ending December 19th, 1857, shows an *increase* in the Bank of England circulation of £1,583,331, a *decrease* in Private Banks of £525,076, and a *decrease* in Joint-Stock Banks of £442,596; being a total *increase* in England of £615,659; while in Scotland there is a *decrease* of £44,132; and in Ireland a *decrease* of £1,231,580. Thus showing that the month ending 19th December, as compared with the same period last year, presents an *increase* of £615,659 in *England*, and a *decrease* of £660,053 in the *United Kingdom*.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending December 19th, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £8,035,121. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending November 18th, there appears to be an *increase* of £314,137; and a *decrease* of £2,490,865 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 19th December, was £4,630,838; being an *increase* of £159,107 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an *increase* of £178,966 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

Waterlow and Sons, Printers, Carpenters' Hall, London Wall.

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—*Daily Prices from 27th January to 23rd February, 1858, inclusive.*

	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	16	17	18	19	20	22	23
Bank Stock, div. 5½ p.c. ½-year	226	224	225	226½	226½	225½	227	225½	226	225	226	225½	225½	225½	225	..	224	226	225	227	227	..	225	227
3 per Ct. Red. Anns. - - -	95⅜	95½	95⅜	95¼	95⅞	95½	95⅝	95⅛	96¼	96¼	96¼	96½	96¼	96⅜	96¼	96⅜	96⅝	97⅛	97⅞	97⅜	98¼	97	96⅜	97⅛
3 per ct. Consols Anns. - - -	94⅞	95	95¼	95¼	95⅛	95⅜	95½	95¾	96⅛	96	95¾	95⅝	96	96⅛	96⅛	96⅛	96¾	96⅞	97	97¼	97⅛	96⅛	96⅝	96¾
New 3 per cent. Anns. - - -	95¾	95¾	95⅜	95⅜	95⅛	95¼	95⅜	96	96¼	96¼	96⅛	96	96⅜	96½	96½	96⅜	96⅞	97¼	97¾	97¼	98⅜	97⅛	97⅛	97¼
New 3½ per cent. - - - - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New 2½ per cent. - - - - -	..	79½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80	..	..	..	79	..	..	..	..	82	..	..	..	..	..
5 per cent. - - - - - - -	..	..	..	..	..	112½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	113	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860 - -	2⅛	..	2¼	..	..	2⅛	..	..	..	..	2⅛	..	..	2⅛	..	..	..	..	..	2⅛	..	2¼	2⅛	2⅛
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859 -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1⅞	..	..	..	..	..	..	1¾	..	..	..	..	1⅞	..
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860 -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1⅞	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Apl. 5, 1885	..	..	18¼	..	18½	..	..	..	..	..	18½	18⅜	..	18⅝	..	..	..	18⅝	..	..	..	..	..	..
India Stock (div. 10½ percent.	219	221	221½	..	..	..	..	219	221¼	221½	218	218	218	..	..	..	219½	222	222	222	222	..	222	220¾
Do. Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)	17sp	17sp	19sp	..	15sp	..	..	21sp	24sp	..	22sp	..	20sp	..	21sp	20sp	25sp	29sp	..	30sp	31sp	32sp	29sp	29sp
Ditto, under £500 - - -	17sp	18sd	19sp	..	..	..	..	18sp	22sp	20sp	25sp	20sp	21sp	..	25sp	..	..	26sp	..	29sp	31sp	..	..	..
Bank Stock for ac. 4th Mar. - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	226	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 4th Feb -	95¼	95½	95¼	95⅛	95½	95⅜	95¼	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto for account 4th Mar. - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	95¾	96⅛	96¼	96⅛	95⅛	96¼	96¼	96¼	96⅛	96⅝	96⅛	97¼	97¼	97⅝	96¾	96⅝	96¾
Ex. Bills £1000, 2½d. *per diem*	20sp	23sp	24sp	22sp	22sp	26sp	23sp	30sp	32sp	32sp	29sp	30sp	30sp	31sp	32sp	33sp	38sp	40sp	38sp	33sp	30sp	24sp	20sp	32sp
Ditto. £500 do. - -	20sp	20sp	21sp	21sp	..	26sp	..	24sp	28sp	32sp	29sp	30sp	..	34sp	32sp	33sp	38sp	..	..	35sp	30sp	31sp	23sp	26sp
Ditto. Small do. - -	20sp	20sp	24sp	22sp	..	26sp	27sp	..	32sp	32sp	28sp	..	33sp	34sp	32sp	33sp	33sp	40sp	40sp	35sp	37sp	24sp	25sp	33sp
Ditto Advertised 2d. - - - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32sp
Ditto Bonds A 1858 3½ p.c. - -	100¼	100¼	100⅛	100	..	..	100¼	100¼	..	..	100⅛	100⅜	..	..	..	100⅛	..	..	100	..	..	..	..	100⅛
Ditto under £1000 - - - -	100¼	100¼	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100⅜	..	..	..	..	..	100⅜	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto B 1859 - - - - - -	100¼	100¼	..	..	100⅛	100⅛	100¼	100¼	100⅜	..	..	100¼	..	..	..	..	..	..	100⅜	100⅜	100⅝	..	..	..
Ditto under £1000 - - - -	100¼	100¼	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100¼	..	..	..	..	..	100¼	100⅛	..	..	..	..	..

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

				London Latest Prices.
Australasia - - - - - - -	£40 sh.,	£40	0 pd.	£87
British North American - -	50	50	0	61
Bank of London - - - - -	100	50	0	49½
Commercial of London - -	100	20	0	20
Colonial - - - - - - - -	100	25	0	29
City Bank - - - - - - - -	100	50	0	60
London and Westminster - -	100	20	0	44¾
London Joint Stock - - - -	50	10	0	30⅜
Oriental Bank - - - -	25	25	0	37
Provincial of Ireland - - -	100	25	0	61
National Bank - - - - -	50	25	0	35½
National Provincial of England	150	35	0	76½
South Australian - - - -	25	25	0	31½
Union of Australia - - - -	25	25	0	46½
Union of London - - - -	20	10	0	24
London and County - - -	50	20	0	29½
London Chartered of Australia	20	20	0	18
Bk. of India, & Austra. Chartrd.	20	20	0	19½
New South Wales - - - - -	20	20	0	45
Bank of Egypt - - - - -	25	25	0	24
Ottoman Bank - - - - - -	20	20	0	20⅜

FOREIGN STOCKS *(25th February.)*

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent. - - - -	103
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent. - - - - -	106½
Danish 5 per Cent. - - - - - - - -	100
Mexican 3 per Cent. - - - - - - -	20½
Peruvian 4½ per Cent. - - - - - - -	82
Portuguese Bonds, 3 per Cent. - - -	46
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 perCent. in £ Ster. -	111½
Ditto, 4½ per cent. - - - - - - - -	99½
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cents. - - - - -	43½
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred - - - - -	26½
Turkish 6 per Cent. - - - - - - -	101½
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Dutch 2½ per Cent. - - - - - - -	66
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan - - - - - -	100½
French 4½ per Cent., at Paris, Feb. 25,	95f. 10c.
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	69f. 55c.

RAILWAY SHARES.

Company.	Paid up £	Prices Jan. 27.	Prices Feb. 25.
Caledonian.	100 ..	91½	96
Eastern Counties	100 ..	63½	63½
Great Northern	100 ..	105	107½
Great Western	100 ..	60	61½
London and Blackwall ..	13½ ..	6½	6⅛
London and Brighton ..	100 ..	109¾	108½
——— North-West.	100 ..	100¾	101¼
——— South-West.	100 ..	98½	97½
Midland	100 ..	94½	101½
South-Eastern	100 ..	75½	74½
York, Newcsle. & Berwick	100 ..	97½	98½
York & North Midland ..	100 ..	84	83½

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows:

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1858. Jan. 13th.	1858. Jan. 20th.	1858. Jan. 27th.	1858. Feb. 3rd.	1858. Feb. 10
	£	£	£	£	£
Notes issued	27,212,485	28,221,475	29,023,340	29,445,165	30,220,
Government debt	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,
Other securities	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,
Gold coin and bullion	12,737,485	13,746,475	14,568,340	14,970,165	15,745,
Silver bullion	—	—	—	—	—
	27,212,485	28,221,475	29,023,340	29,445,165	30,220,

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1858. Jan. 13th.	1858. Jan. 20th.	1858. Jan. 27th.	1858. Feb. 3rd.	1858. Feb. 10
	£	£	£	£	£
Proprietors' capital	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,
Rest	3,653,410	3,608,614	3,701,136	3,721,209	3,810,
Public deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	2,996,996	2,813,738	2,948,998	3,681,866	4,953,
Other deposits	19,124,733	18,386,698	18,175,850	17,690,175	16,206,
Seven day and other bills	883,878	869,385	866,487	870,462	846,
	41,202,025	40,231,435	40,244,074	39,826,532	39,871,
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuities)	9,191,996	9,191,996	9,387,580	9,539,161	9,702,
Other securities	23,849,692	22,250,659	21,047,480	20,072,740	19,822,
Notes	7,540,675	8,199,450	9,418,630	9,270,100	10,617,
Gold and silver coin	619,702	589,340	790,384	823,531	828,
	41,202,025	40,231,435	40,244,074	39,826,532	39,871,

The Exchanges.

	Jan. 1st.	Jan. 8th.	Jan. 15th.	Jan. 22nd.	Jan. 29th
Amsterdam, short	11 16½	11 15½	11 15	11 15	11 15
Ditto 3 months	12 —	11 19	11 18½	11 18	11 17½
Rotterdam, ditto	12 —	11 19½	11 18½	11 18	11 18
Antwerp, ditto	25 57½	25 50	25 45	25 42½	25 42½
Brussels, ditto	25 57½	25 50	25 45	25 42½	25 42½
Hamburgh, ditto	13 7½	13 6½	13 5½	13 6½	13 7
Paris, short	25 30	25 25	25 25	25 25	25 30
Paris, 3 months	25 67½	25 57½	25 57½	25 55	25 55
Marseilles, ditto	25 67½	25 60	25 60	25 57½	25 55
Frankfort, ditto	120½	120	119½	119	119
Vienna, ditto	10 47	10 45	10 40	10 38	10 40
Trieste, ditto	10 48	10 45	10 42	10 40	10 42
Petersburgh, ditto	24½	24½	24½	24½	24½
Madrid, ditto	48	48½	48½	48½	48½
Cadiz, ditto	48½	49	49½	49½	49½
Leghorn, ditto	30 35	30 30	30 30	30 15	30 5
Genoa, ditto	26	25 55	25 77½	25 75	25 67½
Naples, ditto	40½	41	41½	41½	41
Palermo, ditto	122	122½	122½	122½	122½
Messina, ditto	122½	123	122	123	123
Lisbon, ditto	51½	51½	51½	51½	51½
Oporto, ditto	52½	52½	52½	52½	52½
Rio Janeiro 60 dys.'dte	—	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce
Foreign Gold in Bars (Standard)	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9
Mexican Dollars	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 5 0½	0 5 0½	0 0 0
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 5 1½	0 0 0	0 5 1½

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTE.

PRIVATE BANKS.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
			Dec. 26.	Jan. 2.	Jan. 9.	Jan. 16.
		£	£	£	£	£
1	Andover Bank	17,751	9,755	10,217	10,553	10,171
2	Ashford Bank	11,849	8,221	9,352	9,657	8,375
3	Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	18,625	18,845	19,430	19,899
4	Baldock and Biggleswade Bank	37,223	26,002	25,516	25,728	25,001
5	Barnstaple Bank	17,182	8,211	7,939	7,969	7,987
6	Basingstoke and Odiham Bank	24,730	19,340	19,934	20,463	20,392
7	Bedford Bank	34,218	30,349	29,971	31,210	32,108
8	Bewdley Bank	18,597	9,186	9,082	8,631	9,144
9	Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank	27,090	14,163	14,238	14,513	14,253
10	Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	18,748	19,064	18,573	19,116
11	Birmingham and Warwickshire Bk.	18,132	5,223			
12	Blandford Bank	9,723	5,990	6,280	6,115	6,640
13	Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	61,411	61,474	63,819	62,596
14	Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	15,118	15,064	14,746	14,265
15	Bridgewater Bank	10,028	7,124	7,106	7,226	7,402
16	Bristol Bank	48,277	28,415	28,189	31,325	31,930
17	Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank	26,717	13,958	14,060	13,672	14,249
18	Buckingham Bank	29,557	19,924	19,453	20,818	22,382
19	Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	52,509	54,403	57,576	56,806
20	Banbury Bank	43,457	29,496	28,458	28,006	28,927
21	Banbury Old Bank	55,153	24,471	23,795	22,782	23,595
22	Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	29,905	30,045	29,777	29,002
23	Birmingham Bk.—Lloyds & Co.	38,816	17,090	17,539	18,471	20,325
24	Bradford Old Bank	12,676	8,833	9,220	10,692	10,663
25	Brecon Old Bank	68,271	37,458	35,445	32,672	30,341
26	Brighton Union Bank	33,794	17,056	17,569	18,389	17,870
27	Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	8,066	8,507	9,525	10,306
28	Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	1,869	2,179	2,425	2,531
29	Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	12,858	13,604	14,266	13,369
30	Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	42,019	41,335	43,373	43,755
31	Canterbury Bank	33,671	26,406	26,465	28,425	30,770
32	Carmarthen Bank	23,597	18,146	18,177	18,392	18,688
33	Chertsey Bank	3,436	2,393	2,316	2,570	2,384
34	Colchester Bank	25,082	14,398	14,568	15,092	15,750
35	Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	30,610	30,636	32,683	32,632
36	Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co.	49,869	41,017	42,549	42,150	40,145
37	Coventry Bank	12,045	5,358	5,368	5,935	6,568
38	City Bank, Exeter	21,527	17,279	17,800	18,347	17,846
39	Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co.	77,154	49,648	48,259	48,986	49,201
40	Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	6,460	6,677	6,596	6,262
41	Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	8,323	8,440	9,223	10,467
42	Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	30,566	29,501	30,977	30,221
43	Derby Old Bank	27,237	21,002	23,067	25,644	26,564
44	Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	6,780	7,009	7,092	7,427
45	Diss Bank	10,657	10,254	10,400	10,514	10,335
46	Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	50,470	50,779	55,108	57,500
47	Darlington Bank	86,218	57,719	60,040	64,751	76,799
48	Devonport Bank	10,664	7,191	7,352	7,666	7,300
59	Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	40,371	41,418	42,100	42,945
50	East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	84,630	83,418	83,401	81,613
51	East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	48,325	49,082	52,988	51,960
52	Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	32,885	34,115	36,066	36,456
53	Exeter Bank	37,894	23,372	24,800	26,236	27,639
54	Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	5,605	5,795	6,395	6,232
55	Farnham Bank	14,202	10,314	10,360	10,291	10,152
56	Faversham Bank	6,681	5,263	5,074	5,620	5,941
57	Godalming Bank	6,322	4,500	4,849	4,905	5,005

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Dec. 26.	Jan. 2.	Jan. 9	Jan 1
		£	£	£	£	£
58	Guildford Bank	14,524	11,044	11,030	11,857	11,4
59	Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	23,743	23,061	24,902	24,3
60	Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	11,945	12,289	12,578	13,2
61	Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	16,868	18,406	19,073	20,4
62	Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	39,760	39,200	40,104	40,8
63	Harwich Bank	5,778	4,614	4,816	5,065	4,7
64	Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	25,801	26,904	27,109	26,6
65	Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	15,733	14,988	15,477	15,9
66	Ipswich Bank	21,901	18,096	18,435	19,163	20,1
67	Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	56,598	59,019	61,613	62,3
68	Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	8,923	8,341	9,649	10,9
69	Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	25,911	25,870	24,933	23,2
70	Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	18,778	18,777	18,968	18,4
71	Kendal Bank	44,663	34,674	34,369	34,325	32,9
72	Longton Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,285	5,268	5,255	5,2
73	Leeds Bank	53,357	43,630	42,955	48,202	52,8
74	Leeds Union Bank	37,459	35,682	35,826	36,318	36,1
75	Leicester Bank	32,322	22,883	22,882	23,879	24,7
76	Lewes Old Bank	44,836	17,018	17,497	18,816	20,1
77	Lincoln Bank	100,342	73,419	73,423	76,755	77,8
78	Llandovery Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	16,344	15,768	14,603	13,9
89	Loughborough Bank	7,359	5,454	5,390	5,680	6,0
80	Lymington Bank	5,038	3,185	3,045	3,421	3,8
81	Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	33,097	33,118	33,040	33,7
82	Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	9,062	9,475	9,960	10,1
83	Macclesfield Bank	15,760	9,654	10,103	10,210	10,9
84	Manningtree Bank	7,692	282	635	1,734	1,3
85	Merionethshire Bank	10,906	9,667	8,976	7,881	6,7
86	Miners' Bank	18,688	15,119	14,911	14,307	13,9
87	Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	22,325	21,990	26,110	26,5
88	Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	11,200	10,670	10,427	9,8
89	Newark Bank	28,788	18,559	17,697	18,676	19,9
90	Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	41,735	41,463	44,681	48,3
91	Newbury Bank	36,787	16,451	16,555	16,654	16,7
92	Newmarket Bank	23,098	15,818	16,285	16,289	16,8
93	Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	47,769	48,805	49,737	50,0
94	Norwich and Norfolk Bank	105,519	89,051	91,461	95,390	96,2
95	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	10,866	7,161	7,538	7,805	7,5
96	Nuneaton Bank	5,898	2,840	2,759	2,816	2,9
97	Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	16,654	15,584	17,681	18,6
98	New Sarum Bank.—Everett and Pinckneys	15,659	8,861	8,706	8,918	9,5
99	Nottingham Bank	31,047	27,661	27,362	27,829	27,6
100	Oswestry Bank	18,471	8,100	7,743	7,995	7,7
101	Oxford Old Bank	34,391	31,579	31,975	31,705	30,3
102	Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	5,971	6,270	6,840	7,0
103	Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	8,798	8,864	9,322	9,2
104	Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	38,043	39,965	41,855	43,2
105	Penzance Bank	11,405	9,790	9,734	9,119	9,4
106	Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	7,940	8,133	8,525	9,1
107	Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	6,429	6,741	7,234	7,2
108	Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	22,526	21,970	23,501	23,9
109	Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	23,742	23,608	25,510	25,9
110	Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	4,825	4,775	5,040	5,0
111	Rochdale Bank	5,590	2,078	2,235	2,343	2,4
112	Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	6,185	6,209	6,390	6,4
113	Royston Bank	16,393	11,227	11,455	11,880	12,4
114	Rugby Bank	17,250	8,465	8,681	8,390	8,5
115	Rye Bank	29,864	9,595	9,877	10,216	10,9

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Dec. 26.	Jan. 2.	Jan. 9.	Jan. 16.
		£	£	£	£	£
116	Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	3,515	3,580	3,831	4,004
117	Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	27,269	26,951	27,152	27,625
118	Salop Bank	22,338	10,193	10,309	10,864	10,678
119	Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	21,187	21,157	22,375	22,934
120	Shrewsbury Old Bank.....	43,191	28,752	27,729	28,045	29,264
121	Sittingbourne and Milton Bank...	4,789	2,135	2,144	2,465	2,536
122	Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	9,080	9,860	10,905	11,495
123	Southwell Bank	14,744	10,084	10,086	10,544	10,869
124	Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	2,480	2,781	3,163	3,390
125	Stafford Old Bank	14,166	10,008	10,318	11,542	12,102
126	Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	23,041	24,183	23,980	24,935
127	Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	16,626	16,018	16,242	16,245
128	Taunton Bank	29,799	24,097	24,284	24,761	25,171
129	Tavistock Bank	13,421	7,408	7,642	8,803	9,200
130	Thornbury Bank.....	10,026	9,848	8,622	8,018	7,920
131	Tiverton and Devonshire Bank...	13,470	9,180	9,489	9,815	9,855
132	Thrapstone and Kettering Bank..	11,559	11,605	11,739	11,510	11,159
133	Tring Bank and Chesham Bank..	13,531	11,001	11,755	12,236	12,511
134	Towcester Old Bank	10,801	5,739	5,816	6,375	7,215
135	Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	8,089	8,285	8,972	9,180
136	Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	15,115	16,056	15,285	13,595
137	Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	10,066	9,795	9,810	9,457
138	Wallingford Bank	17,064	6,585	6,605	7,184	7,829
139	Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	20,349	20,325	21,809	23,872
140	Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	3,002	3,113	3,268	3,364
141	West Riding Bank	46,158	32,331	33,105	34,582	36,249
142	Whitby Old Bank	14,258	11,940	12,355	13,917	14,622
143	Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	15,715	15,277	16,362	17,220
144	Weymouth Old Bank.....	16,461	13,388	13,435	13,923	14,680
145	Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	31,891	32,255	32,771	33,213
146	Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	47,059	45,597	46,649	48,170
147	Wiveliscombe Bank.....	7,602	5,708	5,845	5,583	5,776
148	Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	4,407	5,203	6,167	6,625
149	Worcester Old Bank	87,448	46,088	45,617	46,800	48,157
150	Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	6,520	6,920	7,463	7,577
151	Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	44,997	45,219	45,706	45,949
152	Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	13,502	12,766	12,861	12,795
153	York Bank	46,387	36,149	36,453	37,603	39,871

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1	Bank of Westmoreland.....	12,225	7,949	7,791	7,697	7,323
2	Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	6,838	7,176	7,540	7,493
3	Bradford Banking Company	49,292	32,483	30,976	31,356	36,540
4	Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	4,848	5,619	6,520	9,036
5	Bank of Whitehaven.....	32,681	23,222	22,763	23,359	24,004
6	Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	10,770	11,003	11,581	11,747
7	Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	44,587	45,870	49,510	47,269

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Dec. 26.	Jan. 2.	Jan. 9.	
		£	£	£	£	
8	Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	8,237	8,023	7,824	
9	Cumberland Union Banking Co...	35,395	28,690	29,975	30,525	3
10	Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	21,308	22,028	23,023	2
11	Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	11,657	10,040	10,200	1
12	County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	93,383	95,625	100,942	10
13	Carlisle & Cumberland BankingCo.	25,610	19,630	19,910	20,834	2
14	Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	15,016	14,697	15,763	1
15	Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	18,617	17,192	18,447	1
16	Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	17,423	17,150	16,596	1
17	Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	15,741	14,265	14,350	1
18	East of England Bank	25,025	22,486	22,060	22,779	2
19	Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	118,448	114,132	117,465	12
20	Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	13,185	12,780	15,655	1
21	Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	26,088	25,412	26,954	3
22	Hull Banking Company	29,333	20,435	21,068	22,845	2
23	Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	3,908	3,462	4,550	
24	Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	29,840	29,340	32,876	3
25	Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,529	1,497	1,492	
26	Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	14,098	12,120	11,972	1
27	Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	22,714	22,132	22,707	2
28	Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	2,312	2,310	2,509	
29	Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	49,698	48,283	48,774	4
30	Leeds Banking Company	23,076	20,367	21,397	22,780	2
31	Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	54,210	53,542	55,945	5
32	Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co..	51,620	41,775	40,388	42,823	4
33	Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank	13,875	8,594	8,219	10,158	1
34	Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	6,920	7,285	7,475	
35	Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	23,003	25,947	23,189	2
36	Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	22,781	21,976	22,375	2
37	National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	349,022	343,625	354,082	36
38	North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	32,001	32,406	33,115	3
39	Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	68,838	67,107	70,374	7
40	Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	15,230	15,716	17,434	1
41	North and South Wales Bank.....	63,951	40,013	38,336	38,676	3
42	Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	40,415	40,364	42,239	4
43	Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	1,245	1,262	1,327	
44	Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	32,534	30,478	30,280	3
45	Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	42,966	42,479	43,066	4
46	Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	290,463	289,570	303,145	30
47	Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	33,511	34,457	33,144	3
48	Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	45,400	44,695	47,715	4
49	Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	20,782	18,910	18,179	1
50	Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	42,923	41,948	43,242	4
51	Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	45,554	44,295	43,667	4
52	Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	5,020	3,878	3,325	
53	Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	11,420	11,508	12,307	1
54	Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	20,123	20,341	19,770	2
55	Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	23,620	23,258	26,228	2
56	West of England and South Wales District Bank.....	83,535	50,773	49,338	51,415	5
57	Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	63,967	62,910	66,674	7
58	West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	22,925	23,026	25,340	3
59	Whitchurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	3,363	3,439	3,202	
60	Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	3,942	3,741	3,880	
61	York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	61,019	61,219	65,362	6
62	York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	81,990	82,444	86,355	8
63	Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	97,819	98,184	102,709	10

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	Dec. 26.	Jan. 2.	Jan. 9.	Jan. 16.
53 Private Banks.....	£4,432,790	£3,020,485	£3,034,830	£3,143,751	£3,198,670
63 Joint-Stock Banks..	3,302,357	2,429,668	2,402,827	2,497,642	2,562,564
16 Totals	7,735,147	5,450,153	5,437,657	5,641,393	5,761,234

fverage Weekly Circulation of these Banks the month ending January 16th:—

rate Banks	£3,099,434
it-Stock Banks	2,473,175
rage Weekly Circulation of Private id Joint-Stock Banks ending as above	£5,572,609

On a comparison of the above with the urns for the month ending 19th December , it shows:—

decrease in the notes of Private anks, of	£75,211
decrease in the notes of Joint-Stock anks, of	129,124
otal *decrease* on the month.....	£204,335

And, as compared with the month ending January 17th, 1857, it shows—

A *decrease* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£628,039
A *decrease* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	577,772
Total *decrease*, as compared with the same period of last year	£1,205,811

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	£1,333,356
The Joint-Stock Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	829,182
Total BELOW the fixed issues	£2,162,538

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

verage Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH *and* SCOTCH BANKS *during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 16th day of January*, 1858.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt. of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
ank of Ireland	3,738,428	1,909,025	1,310,200	3,219,225	557,380
ovincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	357,446	536,688	894,134	500,844
lfast Bank	281,611	56,048	274,822	330,870	244,323
orthern Bank	243,440	35,241	206,191	241,432	174,116
ister Bank	311,079	57,651	310,742	368,393	171,509
ational Bank of Ireland...	852,269	442,963	441,017	883,980	526,734
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,858,374	3,079,660	5,938,034	2,174,906

SCOTCH BANKS.

ank of Scotland	300,485	168,400	312,942	481,342	318,686
oyal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	156,405	234,445	390,850	351,617
itish Linen Company	438,024	197,836	329,432	527,269	283,281
ommercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	184,322	328,204	512,526	295,688
ational Bank of Scotland..	297,024	146,860	253,040	399,900	199,842
nion Bank of Scotland and BankingCom. in Aberdeen	454,346	193,367	352,729	546,096	268,728
linburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	55,592	77,742	133,334	32,312
berdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	42,090	75,163	117,253	62,844
orth of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	75,686	100,723	176,409	67,388
undee Banking Company	33,451	14,175	24,713	38,888	46,111
stern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	14,374	22,432	36,806	25,111
estern Bank of Scotland..	337,938	102,742	96,204	198,946	67,990
ydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	87,732	115,449	203,182	166,235
ty of Glasgow Bank	72,921	63,893	66,406	130,300	115,111
aledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	20,713	51,307	72,021	36,263
ntral Bank of Scotland...	42,933	18,477	36,949	55,426	33,633
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,542,664	2,477,880	4,020,548	2,370,840

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO JANUARY 16, 185

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 16th January, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz. .—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks..	£5,938,034
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks	4,020,548
Total Average Circulation of these Banks for the past month	£9,958,582

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 19th December last, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£137,689
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	284,703
Total decrease on the month	£422,392

And, as compared with the month ending January 17th, 1857, they show—

Decrease inthe Circulation of Irish Banks	£1,230,563
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	104,630
Total decrease on the year.....	£1,335,193

The fixed issues of the Irish and Sc Banks at the present time are given i *Banking Almanac*, as follows:—

6 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue....	£6,3
16 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue ..	1,8
22 Banks in all, allowed to issue.....	£9,4

The following appears, therefore, to b comparative state of the circulation:—

Irish Banks are below their fixed issue ..	£4
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue	8
Total above the fixed issue	£5

The amounts of Gold and Silver held a head offices of the several banks, durin past month, have been as follows:—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks	£2,1
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks	2,3
Total of Gold and Silver Coin	£4,5

Being a decrease of £245,718 on the p the Irish Banks, and an increase of £16 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on several amounts held by them during preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO JANUARY 16, 185

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, fo month ending the 16th January, 1858:—

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending 16th January, as compared with the previous month:—

	Dec. 19.	Jan. 16.	Increase.	Decrea
Bank of England (month ending Jan. 13)	£20,557,266	£19,435,856	—	£1,12
Private Banks	3,174,645	3,099,434	—	7
Joint-Stock Banks	2,602,299	2,473,175	—	12
Total in England	26,334,210	25,008,465	—	1,32
Scotland.....	4,305,251	4,020,548	—	28
Ireland.....	5,075,723	4,938,034	—	13
United Kingdom.....	£35,715,184	£34,967,047	—	£1,74

The comparison of the month ending January 17th, 1857, with the month en January 16th, 1858, shows an *increase* in the Bank of England circulation of £24 a *decrease* in Private Banks of £628,039, and a *decrease* in Joint-Stock Ban £577,772; being a total *decrease* in England of £963,055; while in Scotland there *decrease* of £104,630; and in Ireland a *decrease* of £1,230,563. Thus showing tha month ending 16th January, as compared with the same period last year, prese *decrease* of £963,055 in *England*, and a *decrease* of £2,298,248 in the *United Kingd*

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending January gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £12,052,135. On a comparis this with the Return for the month ending December 19th, there appears to be an in of £4,017,014; and an *increase* of £1,876,108 as compared with the same period las

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the m ending 16th January, was £4,545,746; being a *decrease* of £85,092 as compared the return of the previous month, and a *decrease* of £51,803 as compared wit corresponding period last year.

Waterlow and Sons, Printers, Carpenters' Hall, London Wall.

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—*Daily Prices from 24th February to 26th March, 1858, inclusive.*

	24	25	26	27	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9
Bank Stock, div. 5½ p.c. ½-year	..	227	226½	..	226½	226¼	226	225	225	226½	226	225¾
Ditto for opening	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 per Ct. Red. Anns.	97¼	97⅜	97⅜	97⅞	97⅞	97¼	97¼	97⅝	97	96⅞	shut	shut
Ditto for opening	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 per ct. Consols Anns.	97⅛	97¼	96⅞	97¼	96⅞	96¾	96¾	97	96¾	96½	96½	97
New 3 per cent. Anns.	97⅞	97¾	97½	97⅝	97¼	97⅜	97¼	97¼	96⅞	97	96⅞	..
Ditto ex. div. for opening	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	2½	2½	..	..	..	..	..	2¼	shut	shut	shut	shut
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	1⅝	1¼	..	..	..	..	..	..	shut	shut	shut	shut
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Apl. 5, 1885	18¾	..	..	..	..	18½	..	..	shut	shut	shut	shut
India Stock (div. 10½ percent.	224	221	..	..	222	222½	..	..	224	..	222	221
Do. Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)	29sp	..	29sp	26sp	26sp	25sp	..	30sp	29sp	..	25sp	30sp
Ditto, under £500	25sp	25sp	25sp	..	29sp	30sp	..	26sp	29sp	..	30sp	..
Bank stock for ac. 8th April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 4th Mar.	96⅝	97⅜	96½	97⅛	96¾	96½	96¾	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto for account 8th April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	97⅛	96⅞	96⅞	96⅞	97
Ex. Bills £1000, 2½d. *per diem*	34sp	37sp	39sp	41sp	42sp	39sp	39sp	41sp	42sp	40sp	42sp	40sp
Ditto. £500 do.	..	37sp	34sp	41sp	..	39sp	39sp	41sp	..	..	42sp	43sp
Ditto. Small do.	..	32sp	33sp	41sp	..	39sp	39sp	41sp	42sp	39sp	39sp	40sp
Ditto Advertised 2d.	34sp	32sp	33sp	40sp	..	39sp	38sp	41sp	..	38sp	38sp	..
Ditto Bonds A 1858 3½ p.c.	100⅛	100¼	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto under £1000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100⅝	..	100¼	..
Ditto B 1859	..	..	100¾	..	..	..	100¾	..	..	..	..	101
Ditto under £1000	..	100¾	..	..	..	100⅝	..	..	..	100¾	..	100¾

	10	11	12	13	15	16	17	18	19	20	22	23	24	25	26
Bank Stock, div. 5½ p.c. ½-year	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
Ditto for opening	..	..	..	..	..	..	225	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 per Ct. Red. Anns.	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
Ditto for opening	..	..	..	..	96	95⅞	..	96	95¾	..	..	96	..	..	96⅞
3 per ct. Consols Anns.	97	96⅞	96¾	96⅝	96½	96⅝	96½	96⅝	96⅝	96⅝	96⅞	97⅛	97	97¼	97¼
New 3 per cent. Anns.	shut	97¼	..	shut	shut	..	shut	shut	..	shut	shut	..	shut	shut	..
Ditto ex. div. for opening	..	95⅞	95⅞	..	95½	95⅞	95⅞	96⅛	95⅞	..	96	95⅞	96⅛	..	96⅞
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	..	1¼	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Apl. 5, 1885	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
India Stock (div. 10½ percent.	shut	shut	shut	220	shut	223	shut	shut	shut	220	220	220	shut	shut	shut
Do. Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)	27sp	..	..	..	..	..	30sp	25sp	29sp	..	23sp	24sp	25sp	..	..
Ditto, under £500	27sp	30sp	25sp	30sp	26sp	29sp	30sp	30sp	..	..	28sp	24sp	27sp	..	..
Bank stock for ac. 8th April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	225½	226½	227	..	..	..	225½	..
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 4th Mar.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto for account 8th April	97⅛	96⅞	96¾	96⅝	96⅞	97	97	96⅞	96⅞	96⅞	97	97⅛	97⅛	97¼	97½
Ex. Bills £1000, 2½d. *per diem*	39sp	42sp	41sp	..	..	42sp	42sp	40sp	36sp	39sp	35sp	40sp	40sp	39sp	36sp
Ditto. £500 do.	42sp	38sp	42sp	38sp	42sp	38sp	42sp	41sp	40sp	39sp	35sp	35sp	39sp	39sp	..
Ditto. Small do.	42sp	42sp	40sp	..	38sp	42sp	42sp	41sp	41sp	39sp	..	..	41sp	39sp	40sp
Ditto Advertised 2d.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39sp	..	..	..	..
Ditto Bonds A 1858 3½ p.c.	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	99⅛	99¼	99⅛	99⅛	..
Ditto under £1000	100¼	..	..	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto B 1859	101⅛	..	..	101½	..	..	..	..	101	..	100¼	100⅜	101	100⅜	..
Ditto under £1000	..	101⅛	..	..	..	..	..	..	100⅞	..	..	..	..	..	..

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

	Shares	Paid		London Latest Prices.
Australasia	£40 sh.,	£40	0 pd.	£85
British North American	50	50	0	58
Bank of London	100	50	0	48
Commercial of London	100	20	0	20
Colonial	100	25	0	26½
City Bank	100	50	0	59
London and Westminster	100	20	0	45½
London Joint Stock	50	10	0	30⅝
Oriental Bank	25	25	0	38⅜
Provincial of Ireland	100	25	0	62
National Bank	50	25	0	35½
National Provincial of England	150	35	0	76
South Australian	25	25	0	31½
Union of Australia	25	25	0	46
Union of London	20	10	0	24
London and County	50	20	0	28¾
London Chartered of Australia	20	20	0	18⅝
Bk. of India, & Austra. Chartrd.	20	20	0	19½
New South Wales	20	20	0	44
Bank of Egypt	25	25	0	22½
Ottoman Bank	20	20	0	17¾

FOREIGN STOCKS *(27th March.)*

Brasilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	104½
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	106
Danish 5 per Cent.	101
Mexican 3 per Cent.	19½
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	83
Portuguese Bonds, 3 per Cent.	46
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 per Cent. in £ Ster.	110½
Ditto, 4½ per cent.	100
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cents.	44½
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	26½
Turkish 6 per Cent.	102½
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Dutch 2½ per Cent.	65½
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	101½
French 4½ per Cent., at Paris, Mar. 26,	95f. 40c.
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	69f. 90c.

RAILWAY SHARES.

Company.	Paid up £	Prices Feb. 25.	Prices Mar. 26.
Caledonian	100	96	87¾
Eastern Counties	100	63½	58⅞
Great Northern	100	107½	103
Great Western	100	61½	58½
London and Blackwall	13½	6½	6½
London and Brighton	100	108½	106
——— North-West.	100	101½	95½
——— South-West.	100	97½	92½
Midland	100	101½	96½
South-Eastern	100	74½	69½
York, Newcsle. & Berwick	100	98½	91½
York & North Midland	100	83½	74½

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follow

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1858. Feb. 17th.	1858. Feb. 24th.	1858. Mar. 3rd.	1858. Mar. 10th.	185 Mar.
	£	£	£	£	£
Notes issued.....	31,017,675	31,294,910	31,260,315	31,365,545	31,55
Government debt.....	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,01
Other securities	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,45
Gold coin and bullion	16,542,675	16,819,910	16,785,315	16,890,545	17,08
Silver bullion	—	—	—	—	—
	31,017,675	31,294,910	31,260,315	31,365,545	31,53

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1858. Feb. 17th.	1858. Feb. 24th.	1858. Mar. 3rd.	1858. Mar. 10th.	185 Mar.
	£	£	£	£	£
Proprietors' capital.....	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,55
Rest	3,819,411	3,685,703	3,883,852	3,869,360	3,89
Public deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	4,556,976	5,102,686	5,193,108	5,977,542	6,57
Other deposits.....	15,783,239	15,496,817	14,726,081	13,900,771	13,77
Seven day and other bills	862,513	877,168	901,772	895,147	87
	39,595,138	39,715,284	39,257,813	39,212,820	39,67
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuities)	9,857,999	9,906,405	9,902,450	9,902,450	9,90
Other securities	17,634,873	17,164,143	17,306,470	16,619,633	16,56
Notes.....	11,313,810	11,841,395	11,216,925	11,868,040	12,34
Gold and silver coin	788,456	803,341	831,968	822,697	85
	39,595,138	39,715,284	39,257,813	39,212,820	39,67

The Exchanges.

	Feb. 5th.	Feb. 12th.	Feb. 19th.	Feb. 26th.	Mar.
Amsterdam, short ..	11 15	11 15	11 15	11 15	11 15
Ditto 3 months..	11 17⅝	11 17½	11 17½	11 17	11 17
Rotterdam, ditto ..	11 17⅝	11 17½	11 17½	11 17	11 17
Antwerp, ditto ..	25 40	25 40	25 35	25 32½	25 32½
Brussels, ditto.....	25 40	25 40	25 35	25 32½	25 32½
Hamburgh, ditto....	13 6½	13 5½	13 5½	13 5	13 6
Paris, short	25 20	25 15	25 15	25 7½	25 15
Paris, 3 months	25 50	25 45	25 40	25 32½	25 37½
Marseilles, ditto	25 50	25 45	25 42½	25 35	25 40
Frankfort, ditto	118⅝	118⅝	118⅝	118½	118⅝
Vienna, ditto.....	10 38	10 38	10 34	10 32	10 32
Trieste, ditto.....	10 39	10 39	10 36	10 32	10 32
Petersburgh, ditto ..	35½	35	35	35	34½
Madrid, ditto	49	48⅝	48⅝	48⅝	48½
Cadiz, ditto	50½	50	50	49½	50
Leghorn, ditto	30 0	30 0	29 90	29 75	29 70
Genoa, ditto.....	25 67½	25 65	25 60	25 52½	25 55
Naples, ditto.....	41	41½	41½	42	42½
Palermo, ditto	122⅝	123	123½	123½	124⅛
Messina, ditto	123	123½	123⅝	123⅛	125
Lisbon, ditto	51⅛	51⅛	51⅛	51⅛	51⅛
Oporto, ditto	52⅛	52½	52½	51⅛	51⅛
Rio Janeiro 60 dys.'dte	—	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ou
Foreign Gold in Bars .. (Standard)	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17
Mexican Dollars	0 0 0	0 5 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0
Silver in Bars (Stand.)..	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0 5 1½	0 0 0	0 5

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
		Jan. 23.	Jan. 30.	Feb. 6.	Feb. 13.
	£	£	£	£	£
1 Andover Bank	17,751	9,435	9,097	9,454	9,310
2 Ashford Bank	11,849	8,798	8,885	9,413	8,890
3 Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	19,523	18,280	18,419	18,737
4 Baldock and Biggleswade Bank	37,223	25,626	24,885	25,799	25,585
5 Barnstaple Bank	17,182	7,697	7,569	7,397	7,269
6 Basingstoke and Odiham Bank	24,730	20,971	21,347	20,258	20,423
7 Bedford Bank	34,218	32,928	32,846	32,896	31,556
8 Bewdley Bank	18,597	9,602	9,374	9,067	8,678
9 Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank	27,090	13,409	13,659	13,507	13,794
10 Birmingham Bank—Attwoods&Co.	23,695	18,836	18,415	19,019	19,250
11 Blandford Bank	9,723	6,558	7,245	7,435	7,217
12 Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	61,600	60,010	57,738	57,096
13 Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	15,217	15,087	14,364	13,970
14 Bridgewater Bank	10,028	7,138	6,997	6,593	6,325
15 Bristol Bank	48,277	31,474	29,989	29,760	29,439
16 Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank	26,717	14,883	14,800	14,949	15,074
17 Buckingham Bank	29,557	22,398	22,227	21,924	23,331
18 Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	61,170	57,505	55,687	56,227
19 Banbury Bank	43,457	30,073	29,500	28,647	27,887
20 Banbury Old Bank	55,153	24,273	24,160	23,595	23,219
21 Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	29,799	30,523	32,127	32,294
22 Birmingham Bk.—Lloyds & Co.	38,816	22,642	21,334	21,085	20,767
23 Bradford Old Bank	12,676	11,252	10,820	10,770	10,825
24 Brecon Old Bank	68,271	30,157	28,834	27,495	29,365
25 Brighton Union Bank	33,794	17,044	16,115	16,425	16,225
26 Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	10,364	9,268	9,591	9,965
27 Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,500	2,465	2,480	2,537
28 Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	13,531	13,024	13,994	13,785
29 Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	42,591	42,076	41,068	39,451
30 Canterbury Bank	33,671	31,075	29,741	29,488	28,819
31 Carmarthen Bank	23,597	17,659	16,932	16,506	17,176
32 Chertsey Bank	3,436	2,314	2,607	2,452	2,300
33 Colchester Bank	25,082	16,578	15,935	15,490	15,390
34 Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	33,063	32,906	33,743	33,842
35 Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co.	49,869	39,891	38,770	38,114	36,040
36 Coventry Bank	12,045	6,441	6,184	6,075	5,880
37 City Bank, Exeter	21,527	17,567	16,707	16,154	16,027
38 Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co.	77,154	48,435	48,118	48,884	49,659
39 Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	6,245	6,990	7,235	7,177
40 Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	10,325	9,843	10,525	9,993
41 Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	29,560	28,311	29,407	28,840
42 Derby Old Bank	27,237	25,111	26,200	25,653	26,161
43 Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	7,831	8,011	7,827	7,787
44 Diss Bank	10,657	9,965	9,622	9,764	10,010
45 Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	58,533	57,491	58,574	57,389
46 Darlington Bank	86,218	80,048	78,291	74,956	74,244
47 Devonport Bank	10,664	7,490	7,738	7,369	7,625
48 Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	43,738	44,415	43,272	43,419
49 East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	79,756	77,543	74,133	73,878
50 East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	51,471	50,970	50,144	50,720
51 Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	38,430	37,942	38,247	38,525
52 Exeter Bank	37,894	27,108	26,631	25,588	24,706
53 Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	5,970	5,687	6,158	5,787
54 Farnham Bank	14,202	10,228	10,581	10,163	9,842
55 Faversham Bank	6,681	5,957	5,951	5,854	5,811
56 Godalming Bank	6,322	4,890	4,916	5,145	5,678
57 Guildford Bank	14,524	11,835	12,119	12,210	12,217

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Jan. 23.	Jan. 30.	Feb. 6.	Fe
		£	£	£	£	
58	Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	24,686	23,005	22,292	23,
59	Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	12,765	12,461	12,084	12,
60	Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	18,630	18,111	16,980	18,
61	Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	42,149	42,173	41,727	42,
62	Harwich Bank	5,778	4,380	4,266	4,243	4,
63	Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	29,415	27,737	27,293	26,
64	Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	15,561	16,507	16,833	17,
65	Ipswich Bank	21,901	20,611	20,039	19,350	19,
66	Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	61,215	61,160	59,890	59,
67	Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	10,250	9,638	8,975	8,
68	Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	22,155	21,460	21,351	21,
69	Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	18,736	17,855	17,172	17,
70	Kendal Bank	44,663	32,632	32,428	33,631	36,
71	Longton Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,288	5,350	5,233	5,
72	Leeds Bank	53,357	53,206	51,834	51,380	51,
73	Leeds Union Bank	37,459	35,911	36,145	36,440	35,
74	Leicester Bank	32,322	25,056	24,570	23,284	22,
75	Lewes Old Bank	44,836	20,278	20,111	19,865	20,
76	Lincoln Bank	100,342	77,908	75,775	74,003	71,
77	Llandovery Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	12,288	12,734	14,170	15,
78	Loughborough Bank	7,359	5,901	6,265	6,185	6,
89	Lymington Bank	5,038	4,074	4,577	4,617	4,
80	Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	34,303	33,825	33,815	34,
81	Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	9,487	9,055	8,881	8,
82	Macclesfield Bank	15,760	10,659	11,231	11,500	11,
83	Manningtree Bank	7,692	1,488	1,600	1,550	1,
84	Merionethshire Bank	10,906	5,516	5,248	5,272	6,
85	Miners' Bank	18,688	12,982	12,880	12,740	12,
86	Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	25,992	23,780	24,596	26,
87	Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	9,080	9,295	9,848	9,
88	Newark Bank	28,788	19,949	18,928	18,821	18,
89	Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	48,370	46,061	44,629	43,
90	Newbury Bank	36,787	16,609	16,690	16,255	16,
91	Newmarket Bank	23,098	18,329	17,809	17,513	17,
92	Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	50,313	49,635	49,000	48,
93	Norwich and Norfolk Bank	105,519	94,468	93,576	94,510	92,
94	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	10,866	7,506	7,892	7,553	7,
95	Nuneaton Bank	5,898	2,945	2,882	3,072	3,
96	Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	18,825	19,124	17,974	18,
97	New Sarum Bank.—Everett and Pinckneys	15,659	10,651	10,428	10,399	10,
98	Nottingham Bank	31,047	27,510	28,400	28,607	26,
99	Oswestry Bank	18,471	7,350	7,285	6,500	6,
100	Oxford Old Bank	34,391	30,500	32,345	34,465	34,
101	Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	7,125	6,917	7,043	7,
102	Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	9,234	8,590	8,820	9,
103	Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	41,865	40,935	40,114	39,
104	Penzance Bank	11,405	8,664	8,168	8,259	8,
105	Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	9,782	9,978	9,143	9,
106	Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	6,867	7,110	6,591	7,
107	Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	23,633	23,511	23,248	24,
108	Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	25,453	25,162	26,650	27,
109	Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	5,020	5,199	5,238	5,
110	Rochdale Bank	5,590	2,488	2,610	2,756	3,
111	Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	6,323	6,478	6,414	6,
112	Royston Bank	16,393	12,966	12,403	12,357	11,
113	Rugby Bank	17,250	8,885	9,018	8,371	8,
114	Rye Bank	29,864	11,004	10,405	9,660	9,
115	Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire	4,420	3,685	3,755	3,974	4,

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Jan. 23.	Jan. 30	Feb. 6.	Feb. 13.
		£	£	£	£	£
116	Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	27,165	28,704	28,742	29,110
117	Salop Bank	22,338	10,235	9,865	10,380	10,455
118	Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	23,727	23,344	23,371	22,315
119	Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	28,552	28,000	27,005	28,218
120	Sittingbourne and Milton Bank	4,789	2,334	2,468	2,523	2,259
121	Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	11,495	11,311	11,150	10,729
122	Southwell Bank	14,744	10,901	10,519	10,124	9,591
123	Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	3,413	3,335	3,148	2,930
124	Stafford Old Bank	14,166	11,802	11,887	12,017	11,504
125	Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	25,438	24,964	24,051	24,623
126	Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	17,637	16,355	15,725	16,704
127	Taunton Bank	29,799	24,895	23,872	23,276	22,750
128	Tavistock Bank	13,421	8,307	7,406	7,406	7,717
129	Thornbury Bank	10,026	7,876	7,544	7,093	8,257
130	Tiverton and Devonshire Bank	13,470	9,762	9,345	9,220	9,473
131	Thrapstone and Kettering Bank	11,559	10,850	10,925	10,955	11,435
132	Tring Bank and Chesham Bank	13,531	12,704	12,600	12,058	12,070
133	Towcester Old Bank	10,801	7,052	6,309	6,225	5,866
134	Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	9,174	9,378	9,423	8,751
135	Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	12,543	12,585	14,150	13,766
136	Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	9,600	9,585	9,478	10,136
137	Wallingford Bank	17,064	7,230	6,948	7,045	6,694
138	Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	23,841	23,465	22,362	21,840
139	Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	2,944	3,033	2,683	2,146
140	West Riding Bank	46,158	37,622	38,779	38,241	37,839
141	Whitby Old Bank	14,258	14,032	14,594	14,060	13,637
142	Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	17,118	16,645	16,760	16,773
143	Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	14,716	14,773	14,948	14,875
144	Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	32,843	32,746	32,153	31,764
145	Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	48,824	47,132	44,663	44,159
146	Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	6,739	4,805	4,675	4,563
147	Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	6,464	7,188	7,062	7,296
148	Worcester Old Bank	87,448	49,171	51,361	51,646	48,984
149	Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	7,583	8,245	7,767	7,180
150	Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	44,674	43,820	43,286	42,213
151	Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	12,695	12,420	12,201	11,924
152	York Bank	46,387	40,449	39,490	39,306	38,151

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1	Bank of Westmoreland	12,225	7,008	6,938	7,409	10,029
2	Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	7,643	7,273	7,560	7,796
3	Bradford Banking Company	49,292	40,104	37,853	17,151	37,555
4	Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	8,856	7,609	7,869	7,160
5	Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	24,875	25,040	25,416	25,922
6	Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	12,173	12,207	12,833	13,322
7	Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	43,768	43,762	44,640	45,574

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT			
			Jan. 22.	Jan. 29	Feb. 5	Feb.
		£	£	£	£	£
8	Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	104,221	71,875	71,885	81,011	71,
9	Cumberland Union Banking Co.	55,305	52,211	53,285	54,295	52,
10	Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	54,734	52,510	52,557	51,482	51,
11	Coventry Union Banking Company	27,145	18,570	19,010	21,750	17,
12	County of Gloucester Bank and Co.	144,362	103,745	102,805	104,955	99,
13	Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	45,512	31,347	31,165	33,511	31,
14	Carlisle City and District Bank.	14,502	10,540	10,452	11,076	9,
15	Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	30,501	19,501	21,150	21,265	20,
16	Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	28,011	23,112	23,222	27,331	27,
17	Darlington Joint Stock Bk. Co.	29,134	14,665	13,672	14,111	
18	East of England Bank	45,225	41,240	42,210	42,178	41,
19	Gloucestershire Banking Company	45,225	42,772	42,122	41,951	41,
20	Halifax Joint Stock Bank	14,974	11,979	11,875	11,954	
21	Huddersfield Banking Company	30,134	24,719	25,412	25,187	
22	Hull Banking Company	24,111	22,178	21,251	22,405	21,
23	Halifax Commercial Banking Co.	13,013	7,163	8,125	8,201	7,
24	Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,132	31,840	31,125	33,420	30,
25	Holmes Banking Company	1,671	1,481	1,475	1,412	
26	Hereford Banking Company	25,000	11,672	11,274	11,742	11,
27	Kendal Union Bank and Cart. Bk. Co.	29,251	20,183	20,421	21,112	20,
28	Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,012	3,005	3,021	3,147	3,
29	Lancaster Banking Company	74,111	64,512	63,784	63,172	62,
30	Leeds Banking Company	21,000	20,191	20,834	20,111	19,
31	Leicestershire Banking Company	30,000	28,052	28,440	29,441	27,
32	Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co.	31,000	45,180	45,135	44,921	44,
33	Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank	13,812	9,721	9,817	9,742	9,
34	Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	7,512	7,512	7,412	7,
35	Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank.	15,000	20,241	21,287	21,171	20,
36	Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	24,000	21,442	21,722	21,771	21,
37	National Provincial Bk. of England	486,111	350,591	347,118	348,372	345,
38	North Wilts Banking Company	70,000	50,191	49,202	50,742	49,
39	Northamptonshire Union Bank	70,000	70,000	71,212	71,111	70,
40	Northamptonshire Banking Co.	27,000	17,212	17,241	17,121	17,
41	North and South Wales Bank	70,000	38,000	38,241	37,241	36,
42	Parr's Leicestershire Bank and Co.	42,111	42,000	42,712	42,241	42,
43	Sa[illegible] Bank and Company	9,000	7,000	7,581	7,241	
44	Sheffield Banking Company	78,000	50,000	52,000	52,241	51,
45	Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	24,000	22,000	22,241	22,241	22,
46	Stockton Bank and Company	70,000	52,000	52,241	52,241	52,
47	Shropshire Bank and Company	70,000	51,000	51,241	51,241	51,
48	Stamford and Kesteven Bank	24,000	18,000	18,241	18,241	18,
49	Suffolk and Bury Bank	24,000	14,000	14,241	14,241	
50	Sudbury & Suffolk Joint Stock Bk.	24,000	18,000	18,241	18,241	18,
51	Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank	14,000	10,000	10,241	10,241	10,
52	Wakefield & Barnsley Bank	24,000	18,000	18,241	18,241	18,
53	Wakefield, Pontefract & Castleford Bk.	24,000	18,000	18,241	18,241	18,
54	Wilts and Berks Canal Navigation Bank	24,000	18,000	18,241	18,241	18,
55	Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	24,000	18,000	18,241	18,241	18,
56	West Riding and North Wales Union Banking Co.	84,000	60,000	60,241	60,241	60,
57	Wilts & Dorset Bank	24,000	18,000	18,241	18,241	18,
58	Wilts & Somerset Bank	24,000	18,000	18,241	18,241	18,
59	Wilts & Gloucestershire Bank	24,000	18,000	18,241	18,241	18,
60	Worcestershire Banking Company	24,000	18,000	18,241	18,241	18,
61	York Union Bank	24,000	18,000	18,241	18,241	18,
62	Yorkshire Banking Company	24,000	18,000	18,241	18,241	18,

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	Jan. 23.	Jan. 30.	Feb. 6.	Feb. 13.
153 Private Banks.....	£4,432,790	£3,200,931	£3,151,672	£3,119,610	£3,103,588
63 Joint-Stock Banks..	3,302,357	2,557,144	2,527,721	2,526,659	2,542,292
216 Totals	7,735,147	5,788,075	5,679,393	5,646,269	5,645,880

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending February 18th:—

Private Banks	£3,143,950
Joint-Stock Banks	2,538,454
Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above	£5,682,404

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the month ending 16th January last, it shows:—

An *increase* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£44,516
An *increase* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	65,279
Total *increase* on the month.....	£109,795

And, as compared with the month ending February 14th, 1857, it shows—

A *decrease* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£549,075
A *decrease* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	498,670
Total *decrease*, as compared with the same period of last year	£1,047,745

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	£1,288,840
The Joint-Stock Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	763,903
Total BELOW the fixed issues	£2,052,743

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH *and* SCOTCH BANKS *during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 13th day of February,* 1858.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt. of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	1,941,200	1,335,800	3,277,000	607,015
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	379,239	559,693	938,932	500,423
Belfast Bank	281,611	59,810	293,093	352,903	269,790
Northern Bank	243,440	36,947	214,292	251,240	189,809
Ulster Bank	311,079	61,301	330,323	391,625	147,540
National Bank of Ireland...	852,269	482,523	477,764	960,288	548,572
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,961,020	3,210,965	6,171,988	2,263,149

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	141,381	285,992	427,373	252,533
Royal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	139,085	220,622	359,707	326,255
British Linen Company	438,024	173,815	301,768	475,583	298,769
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	162,250	302,864	465,114	243,879
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	131,801	244,070	375,871	212,738
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	454,346	171,380	319,365	490,745	205,723
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	46,457	68,997	115,454	35,667
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	39,886	68,240	108,126	60,013
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	81,946	96,857	178,803	66,910
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	15,247	23,701	38,949	40,746
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	14,605	20,127	34,732	26,605
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	100,612	77,899	178,511	2,509
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	72,842	114,202	187,044	129,417
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	103,032	93,520	196,553	169,703
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	18,086	45,761	63,848	31,173
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	17,776	33,636	51,413	27,884
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,430,201	2,317,621	3,747,826	2,130,524

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO FEBRUARY 13, 185

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 13th February, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz.:—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks..	£6,171,988
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks	3,747,826
Total Average Circulation of these Banks for the past month	£9,919,814

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 16th January last, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£233,954
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	272,722
Total decrease on the month	£38,768

And, as compared with the month ending February 14th, 1857, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£1,081,917
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	209,984
Total decrease on the year.....	£1,291,901

The fixed issues of the Irish and Sc Banks at the present time are given in *Banking Almanac*, as follows:—

6 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue..	£6,35
16 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue ..	3,44
22 Banks in all, allowed to issue.....	£9,44

The following appears, therefore, to be comparative state of the circulation:—

Irish Banks are below their fixed issue ..	£18
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue	66
Total above the fixed issue	£47

The amounts of Gold and Silver held a head offices of the several banks, during past month, have been as follows:—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks	£2,36
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks	2,13
Total of Gold and Silver Coin	£4,39

Being an increase of £88,243 on the pa the Irish Banks, and a decrease of £240 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on several amounts held by them during preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO FEBRUARY 13, 185

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for month ending the 13th February, 1858:—

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending 13th February, as compared with the previous month:—

	Jan. 16.	Feb. 13.	Increase.	Decrea
Bank of England (month ending Feb. 10)	£19,435,856	£19,841,979	£405,123	—
Private Banks	3,099,434	3,143,950	44,516	—
Joint-Stock Banks	2,473,175	2,538,454	65,279	—
Total in England	25,008,465	25,523,683	515,218	—
Scotland.....	4,020,548	3,747,826	—	272,
Ireland.....	5,938,034	6,171,988	233,954	—
United Kingdom.....	£34,967,047	£35,443,497	£749,172	£27

The comparison of the month ending February 14th, 1857, with the month end February 13th, 1858, shows an *increase* in the Bank of England circulation of £858,(a *decrease* in Private Banks of £549,075, and a *decrease* in Joint-Stock Bank £498,670; being a total *decrease* in England of £189,671; while in Scotland there *decrease* of £209,984; and in Ireland a *decrease* of £1,081,917. Thus showing that month ending 13th February, as compared with the same period last year, presen *decrease* of £189,671 in *England*, and a *decrease* of £1,481,572 in the *United Kingdo*

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending February 1 gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £15,550,720. On a comparisor this with the Return for the month ending January 13th, there appears to be an incr of £3,498,585; and an *increase* of £5,426,929 as compared with the same period las y

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the mo ending 13th February, was £4,393,673; being a *decrease* of £152,073 as compared t the return of the previous month, and an *increase* of £59,854 as compared with corresponding period last year.

Waterlow and Sons, Printers, Carpenters' Hall, London Wall.

THE BANK OF FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* publishes the following monthly debtor and creditor account of the Bank of France, made up to Thursday, April 8:—

DEBTOR.	F.	C.
Capital of the Bank	91,250,000	0
Ditto, New	91,250,000	0
Profits in addition to capital (Art. 8, Law of June 9, 1857)	1,435,505	74
Reserve of the Bank	12,980,750	14
New reserve	9,125,000	0
Ditto in landed property...	4,000,000	0
Bank notes in circulation	544,797,800	0
Ditto of the branch banks	41,036,300	0
Bank notes to order	6,428,949	80
Receipts payable at sight	2,659,731	0
Treasury account-current, creditor	92,886,752	15
Sundry accounts-current...	130,751,182	29
Do. with the branch banks	27,874,606	0
Dividends payable	647,639	25
Discounts and sundry interests	3,058,884	16
Commission on deposits ...	7,656,077	68
Re-discounted during the last-six months	2,209,982	52
Sundries	3,137,129	19
F.	1,073,186,289	92

CREDITOR.	F.	C.
Cash in hand	158,702,216	85
Cash in the branch banks	224,128.045	0
Commercial bills overdue	524,968	2
Do. discounted, but not due	200,915,621	46
Ditto in the branch banks	215,410,807	0
Advanced on deposit of bullion	1,701,500	0
Do. by the branch banks	1,758,500	0
Do. on French public securities	25,632,200	0
Do. by the branch banks	9,433,800	0
Do. on railway securities	66,910,858	38
Do. by the branch banks	17,346,650	0
Do. on Crédit Foncier scrip	338,900	0
Do. on branch banks scrip	100,700	0
Do. to the State on agreement of June 30, 1848...	50,000,000	0
Government stock reserved	12,980,750	14
Ditto disposable	52,188,103	58
New shares, not settled ..	20,929,425	0
Hotel & furniture of the Bk.	4,000,000	0
Landed property of the branch banks	5,687,309	0
Expenses of the Bank.....	1,167,988	16
Sundries.....	3,327,947	33
F.	1,073,186,289	92

Certified by the Governor of the Bank of France, DE GERMINY.

This return exhibits a further great augmentation of bullion. The last two returns showed an increase respectively of £1,260,000 and £2,194,000, and on the present occasion it is £1,804,000, the total held being £15,313,000. Thus in three months there has been an addition of £5,254,000; yet the price of rentes, reckoning the proportion of dividend which has since accrued, is nearly one and a half per cent. below the point at which they stood before this favourable movement commenced. Commercial distress will not solve the problem, since the stagnation of business would drive money into public securities. The causes must evidently be referred to political circumstances, and, in the absence of any power of discussion in the press, it is from the condition of the Bourse alone that an estimate can be formed of the extent of any existing distrust. Apart from the increase in the bullion, the present return contains no feature for particular remark. The discounts have experienced a further diminution of £723,000, while the deposits have again increased by £350,000. In the Treasury balances there has been a reduction of £50,000. In the advances on stocks and shares, there has been an increase respectively of £53,000 and £73,000. The notes in circulation likewise show an addition of £903,000. The commercial bills overdue, which were last month stated at £105,000, have been reduced to £21,000.

TRADE WITH CHINA.

SEVERE losses have been experienced in our trade with China du
past year; and the annexed statistics show the extent to whi
respective firms have been engaged in silk and tea operations
sacrifice of capital has been computed at a very high total, but it is
estimate, and cannot therefore be fully relied on. It is stated t
results of the import trade have been very satisfactory, which of
will reduce the loss in other respects.

Silk Shipped from 1st July, 1857, to the date of Last Mail.

Shippers.	Bales.
Smith, Kennedy and Co.	7,950
Gillman and Co.	5,778
Russell and Co.	3,961
Reine, Schmidt and Co.	3,362
Barnett and Co.	2,567
Lindsay and Co.	2,322
Blenkin, Rawson and Co.	2,298
Gibb, Livingston and Co.	2,152
Shaw, Bland and Co.	2,091
Watson and Co.	2,021
Dent, Beale and Co.	1,820
Thorne Brothers	1,735
Provat Brothers	1,268
Buissonnett Brothers	1,261
W. Broughall	1,129
Carried forward	41,715

Shippers.	
Brought forward	...
Reiss and Co.	...
Harkort and Co.	...
Dallas and Co.	...
Turner and Co.	...
Jardine, Matheson and Co.	...
G. C. Schwabe and Co.	...
W. R. Adamson and Co.	...
Fletcher and Co.	...
Holliday, Wise and Co.	...
Ullett and Co.	...
Bohakedt and Co.	...
Jas. Bowman and Co.	...
Sundry shippers	...
Total	...

Settlements of Tea for Season 1857 and 1858, from July 1st, 1857, date of the last Mail.

	Black chops.	Green pkgs.
Jardine, Matheson and Co.	20	11,700
Dent, Beale and Co.	64	43,000
Russell and Co.	6	44,640
A. Heard and Co.	15	60,000
Birley, Worthington and Co.	18	35,312
Blenkin, Rawson and Co.	26	900
Gibb, Livingston and Co.	12	2,100
Shaw, Bland and Co.	10	1,400
Turner and Co.	24	406
Smith, Kennedy and Co.	18	3,722
Jas. M'Donald	7	16,600
A. R. Adamson and Co.	1	75
G. C. Schwabe	11	12,500
J. M. Bull and Co.	12	29,454
Gillman and Co.	5	2,700
Lindsay and Co.	76	8,222
Watson and Co.	4	4,600
Holliday, Wise and Co.	23	3,130
Carried forward	352 China	280,461

	Black chops.	Green
Brought forward	352	
Thorne, Bros. and Co.	—	
Ullett and Co.	1	
Overney and Co.	8	
Whitmore, Williams and Co.	2	
Nott and Co.	3	
Reiss and Co.	11	
Seinnsser and Co.	14	
Jas. Bowman and Co.	56	
Moncrieff, Gore and Co.	51	
Reine, Schmidt and Co.	4	
Sundry firms	5	
William Hargreaves	3	
Fraser and Co.	1	
Bohstedt and Co.	2	
Wm. Broughall	1	
Cama and Co.	2	
Craven Wilson (broker)	15	
Geo. Barnett and Co.	2	
Total	507 China	
	Or 415 full.	

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
			Feb. 20.	Feb. 27.	Mar. 6.	Mar. 13.
		£	£	£	£	£
1	Andover Bank	17,751	9,774	8,505	9,356	8,538
2	Ashford Bank	11,849	9,704	9,715	9,441	9,048
3	Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	18,353	17,373	17,419	17,807
4	Baldock and Biggleswade Bank	37,223	25,324	25,066	25,287	25,571
5	Barnstaple Bank	17,182	7,546	7,242	7,239	6,860
6	Basingstoke and Odiham Bank	24,730	20,518	20,657	20,365	20,075
7	Bedford Bank	34,218	31,238	31,349	30,873	30,519
8	Bewdley Bank	18,597	8,698	8,805	8,614	8,640
9	Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank	27,090	13,604	13,670	14,060	14,881
10	Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	20,045	20,325	21,835	20,730
11	Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	56,935	54,673	53,493	54,316
12	Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	14,794	14,693	14,210	13,773
13	Bridgewater Bank	10,028	6,381	6,173	6,574	6,889
14	Bristol Bank	48,277	28,237	28,480	29,195	29,946
15	Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank	26,717	14,609	14,107	13,732	13,939
16	Buckingham Bank	29,657	24,965	22,307	23,035	22,888
17	Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	54,964	54,789	55,771	57,327
18	Banbury Bank	43,457	28,263	27,667	27,568	27,752
19	Banbury Old Bank	55,153	23,150	23,142	22,690	23,602
20	Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	32,524	33,159	31,757	31,854
21	Birmingham Bk.—Lloyds & Co.	38,816	18,945	18,665	17,775	18,542
22	Bradford Old Bank	12,676	10,775	10,704	11,576	11,963
23	Brecon Old Bank	68,271	32,483	31,274	33,615	34,166
24	Brighton Union Bank	33,794	15,628	15,815	16,773	16,855
25	Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	8,902	9,200	9,010	8,822
26	Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,444	2,391	2,432	2,221
27	Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	12,640	13,434	13,444	13,164
28	Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	40,092	41,045	41,057	40,755
29	Canterbury Bank	33,671	28,486	28,381	28,695	28,725
30	Carmarthen Bank	23,597	17,134	15,959	15,742	16,132
31	Chertsey Bank	3,436	2,222	2,745	2,818	2,875
32	Colchester Bank	25,082	15,246	14,967	14,510	14,488
33	Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	33,742	32,527	32,813	32,515
34	Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co.	49,869	36,616	37,367	37,675	38,115
35	Coventry Bank	12,045	6,052	6,165	6,398	5,791
36	City Bank, Exeter	21,527	16,034	15,458	15,641	16,211
37	Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co.	77,154	49,815	51,984	52,811	53,731
38	Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	6,599	7,258	6,793	6,890
39	Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	9,885	10,103	10,482	10,588
40	Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	30,855	29,730	31,037	32,973
41	Derby Old Bank	27,237	25,532	26,797	27,191	27,929
42	Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	7,624	7,422	7,088	6,804
43	Diss Bank	10,657	10,132	10,509	10,361	10,355
44	Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	54,643	54,214	53,834	54,298
45	Darlington Bank	86,218	75,280	75,658	74,691	70,918
46	Devonport Bank	10,664	7,460	7,758	7,708	7,815
47	Dorchester Old Bank	48,807	44,110	41,180	39,511	38,992
48	East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	72,798	73,198	72,419	71,278
59	East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	49,178	50,055	47,412	47,828
50	Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	37,977	38,315	37,807	37,859
51	Exeter Bank	37,894	23,430	23,572	23,004	22,889
52	Faringdon Bk & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	5,861	5,617	5,890	6,138
53	Farnham Bank	14,202	10,228	10,650	10,404	9,876
54	Faversham Bank	6,681	5,400	5,556	5,191	5,568
55	Godalming Bank	6,322	6,196	5,504	5,025	4,764
56	Guildford Bank	14,524	11,976	11,790	11,395	11,246
57	Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	23,808	23,940	24,322	24,218

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT			
			Feb. 20.	Feb. 27.	Mar. 6.	M
		£	£	£	£	
58	Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	12,201	12,544	12,428	1
59	Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	17,576	17,430	17,333	1
60	Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	41,576	42,757	42,108	4
61	Harwich Bank	5,778	3,775	3,688	3,637	3
62	Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	27,339	28,246	28,006	2
63	Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	17,357	19,190	19,464	1
64	Ipswich Bank	21,901	19,501	19,309	19,345	1
65	Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	58,226	57,509	57,594	5
66	Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	8,918	8,420	8,490	8
67	Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	20,825	21,314	20,723	2
68	Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	16,840	16,580	16,955	1
69	Kendal Bank	44,663	42,870	43,099	41,849	3
70	Longton Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,349	5,296	5,248	5
71	Leeds Bank	53,357	50,621	48,446	49,655	5
72	Leeds Union Bank	37,459	36,093	35,980	36,441	3
73	Leicester Bank	32,322	22,065	22,130	23,194	2
74	Lewes Old Bank	44,836	19,734	19,931	20,383	1
75	Lincoln Bank	100,342	69,552	68,347	68,900	6
76	Llandovery Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	15,083	13,800	13,953	1
77	Loughborough Bank	7,359	6,428	6,672	6,712	6
78	Lymington Bank	5,038	4,297	4,466	4,310	4
89	Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	32,736	32,961	33,760	3
80	Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	8,714	8,155	8,120	7
81	Macclesfield Bank	15,760	11,701	11,512	11,635	1
82	Manningtree Bank	7,692	1,595	1,296	1,583	1
83	Merionethshire Bank	10,906	6,492	7,087	6,450	5
84	Miners' Bank	18,688	12,000	12,669	13,419	1
85	Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	25,018	24,025	23,447	2
86	Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	9,858	9,256	9,243	9
87	Newark Bank	28,788	17,370	16,495	15,739	1
88	Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	40,846	41,575	40,321	4
89	Newbury Bank	36,787	16,002	16,044	15,856	1
90	Newmarket Bank	23,098	16,946	16,122	16,008	1
91	Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	48,219	47,438	47,475	4
92	Norwich and Norfolk Bank	105,519	90,504	89,638	88,595	8
93	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	10,866	7,213	7,078	7,259	7
94	Nuneaton Bank	5,898	3,065	3,068	2,900	3
95	Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	18,883	19,015	18,500	1
96	New Sarum Bank.—Everett and Pinckneys	15,659	9,925	9,605	9,670	9
97	Nottingham Bank	31,047	27,091	27,790	27,358	2
98	Oswestry Bank	18,471	6,266	6,952	7,440	7
99	Oxford Old Bank	34,391	32,784	32,231	31,909	3
100	Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	6,627	6,068	5,913	5
101	Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	9,360	9,876	9,903	1
102	Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	40,282	40,694	41,208	4
103	Penzance Bank	11,405	8,357	8,092	7,954	8
104	Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	9,475	9,152	8,953	8
105	Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	7,224	6,538	6,974	6
106	Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	23,825	23,816	23,735	2
107	Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	26,292	26,167	26,635	2
108	Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	5,149	4,970	5,531	5
109	Rochdale Bank	5,590	3,198	3,106	3,148	3
110	Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	6,176	6,334	6,197	6
111	Royston Bank	16,393	11,900	12,345	12,300	1
112	Rugby Bank	17,250	8,315	8,810	8,675	8
113	Rye Bank	29,864	8,867	8,764	8,131	7
114	Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire	4,420	4,223	4,242	4,148	4
115	Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	29,545	29,476	29,589	2

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Feb. 20.	Feb. 27	Mar. 6.	Mar. 13.
		£	£	£	£	£
116	Salop Bank	22,338	10,727	11,052	11,350	10,986
117	Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	21,332	21,755	20,627	19,559
118	Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	29,401	29,618	29,807	29,009
119	Sittingbourne and Milton Bank	4,789	1,895	1,921	2,167	2,070
120	Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	10,575	10,811	10,220	10,220
121	Southwell Bank	14,744	9,510	9,144	9,221	9,568
122	Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	2,755	2,865	2,629	2,975
123	Stafford Old Bank	14,166	11,320	12,003	11,848	12,009
124	Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	23,907	23,758	24,023	24,021
125	Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	16,931	17,125	17,553	20,337
126	Taunton Bank	29,799	22,083	22,023	21,253	21,248
127	Tavistock Bank	13,421	7,633	6,955	7,343	7,909
128	Thornbury Bank	10,026	8,660	9,011	9,017	9,677
129	Tiverton and Devonshire Bank	13,470	9,377	9,172	9,445	9,521
130	Thrapstone and Kettering Bank	11,559	11,778	11,310	10,923	11,040
131	Tring Bank and Chesham Bank	13,531	12,631	12,533	12,511	12,469
132	Towcester Old Bank	10,801	6,355	6,597	6,347	6,221
133	Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	8,590	8,330	7,873	7,681
	Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	11,728	12,331	14,181	14,521
135	Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	10,132	10,152	9,797	9,859
136	Wallingford Bank	17,064	6,460	6,597	6,579	6,500
137	Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	20,572	20,373	20,313	20,691
138	Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	2,149	2,124	2,127	2,275
139	West Riding Bank	46,158	37,456	35,370	36,908	37,339
140	Whitby Old Bank	14,258	12,911	12,631	12,715	12,187
141	Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	16,087	15,751	15,400	15,781
142	Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	14,305	13,367	13,101	13,577
143	Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	31,703	30,456	30,949	30,683
144	Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	44,438	42,913	42,207	42,416
145	Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	4,467	6,080	6,413	6,800
146	Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	7,108	7,197	8,592	7,984
147	Worcester Old Bank	87,448	50,601	50,136	49,183	49,164
148	Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	7,369	7,125	6,512	6,402
149	Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	40,458	39,495	38,409	38,031
150	Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	11,510	10,733	10,285	10,610
151	York Bank	46,387	36,789	36,471	36,436	36,293

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1	Bank of Westmoreland	12,225	12,006	11,110	9,285	8,735
2	Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	7,399	7,968	8,595	8,301
3	Bradford Banking Company	49,292	37,855	39,854	39,780	40,661
4	Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	6,620	7,749	7,797	8,983
5	Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	26,103	27,502	26,351	26,145
6	Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	14,164	14,955	15,506	16,070
7	Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	45,425	44,555	44,489	44,434

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Feb 20.	Feb. 27.	Mar. 6.	
		£	£	£	£	
8	Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	8,133	9,705	10,144	1
9	Cumberland Union Banking Co ..	35,395	33,747	32,905	32,317	3
10	Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	19,996	19,352	20,964	2
11	Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	10,603	10,713	11,351	1
12	County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	100,320	96,945	100,187	9
13	Carlisle & Cumberland BankingCo.	25,610	21,468	21,726	21,297	2
14	Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	19,052	19,152	19,863	1
15	Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	22,510	23,451	22,711	2
16	Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	40,093	17,742	17,564	17,386	1
17	Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	14,697	14,223	14,683	1
18	East of England Bank	25,025	23,167	23,522	23,463	2
19	Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	117,743	117,006	116,681	11
20	Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	16,626	16,453	17,187	1
21	Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	31,123	30,035	28,455	2
22	Hull Banking Company	29,333	21,161	20,618	20,764	2
23	Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	7,743	7,918	8,071	
24	Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	34,580	33,087	32,416	3
25	Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,471	1,509	1,499	
26	Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	13,765	12,157	12,011	1
27	Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	20,857	20,851	20,551	2
28	Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	2,926	2,841	2,770	
29	Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	66,206	64,588	58,763	5
30	Leeds Banking Company	23,076	22,755	22,990	22,825	2
31	Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	57,912	57,446	57,832	6
32	Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co..	51,620	42,441	41,850	40,272	4
33	Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank	13,875	8,852	8,582	9,290	
34	Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	7,910	8,251	8,439	
35	Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	21,520	21,821	22,948	2
36	Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	22,926	23,081	23,425	2
37	National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	350,952	346,048	352,702	35
38	North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	38,085	37,750	36,202	3
39	Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	69,630	69,688	69,891	6
40	Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	17,812	18,337	18,180	1
41	North and South Wales Bank.....	63,951	35,079	35,220	36,254	3
42	Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	43,658	43,173	44,086	4
43	Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	1,628	1,726	1,549	
44	Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	32,215	30,784	30,403	3
45	Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	39,957	40,653	40,968	4
46	Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	302,793	303,300	304,310	31
47	Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	27,772	28,756	27,614	2
48	Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	47,100	47,935	48,366	4
49	Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	18,930	19,724	19,293	1
50	Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	45,263	46,269	47,234	4
51	Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	42,242	41,739	41,785	4
52	Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	4,936	6,520	8,376	
53	Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	11,425	12,397	12,313	1
54	Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	22,020	21,178	20,280	2
55	Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	23,266	22,942	24,182	2
56	West of England and South Wales District Bank.....	83,535	55,894	56,267	55,200	5
57	Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	70,162	73,513	69,549	69,210	7
58	West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	30,872	29,757	28,430	3
59	Whitchurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	3,404	3,268	2,965	
60	Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	5,494	4,945	5,566	
61	York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	62,798	62,420	63,017	6
62	York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	79,678	78,219	77,585	7
63	Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	107,850	106,510	109,770	11

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	Feb. 20.	Feb. 27.	Mar. 6.	Mar. 13.
151 Private Banks.....	£4,404,935	£3,075,926	£3,057,705	£3,053,518	£3,053,006
63 Joint-Stock Banks..	3,302,357	2,553,790	2,539,109	2,546,039	2,569,251
214 Totals	7,707,292	5,629,716	5,596,814	5,599,557	5,622,257

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending March 13th:—

Private Banks	£3,060,039
Joint-Stock Banks	2,552,047
Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above	£5,612,086

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the month ending 13th February last, it shows:—

A *decrease* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£93,911
An *increase* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	13,593
Total *decrease* on the month.....	£70,318

And, as compared with the month ending March 14th, 1857, it shows—

A *decrease* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£575,609
A *decrease* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	491,013
Total *decrease*, as compared with the same period of last year	£1,066,622

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	£1,344,896
The Joint-Stock Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	750,310
Total BELOW the fixed issues	£2,095,206

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH *and* SCOTCH BANKS *during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 13th day of March*, 1858.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	1,915,225	1,345,400	3,260,625	675,963
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	389,069	556,862	945,931	524,852
Belfast Bank	281,611	60,451	294,337	354,789	279,252
Northern Bank	243,440	41,460	213,740	255,200	193,496
Ulster Bank	311,079	69,341	324,853	393,194	160,174
The National Bank	852,269	502,582	483,178	985,761	552,390
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	2,977,128	3,218,370	6,195,500	2,386,127

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	132,517	274,727	407,244	232,460
Royal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	141,951	223,939	365,890	291,766
British Linen Company	438,024	163,562	286,683	450,245	313,018
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	155,736	291,591	447,327	252,244
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	123,983	239,945	363,929	213,102
Union Bank of Scotland and BankingCom. inAberdeen	454,346	163,837	314,748	478,585	164,869
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	54,826	73,483	128,309	39,648
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	42,546	65,279	107,825	60,975
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	84,987	93,239	178,226	68,510
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	12,705	23,456	36,161	39,314
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	12,960	18,308	31,268	28,182
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	58,237	26,320	84,557	2,084
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	75,967	118,728	194,695	125,546
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	92,023	106,317	198,341	194,423
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	17,277	41,893	59,170	33,006
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	15,626	30,440	46,066	28,552
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,348,740	2,229,096	3,577,838	2,087,699

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO MARCH 13, 1858.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 13th March, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz.:—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks	£6,195,500
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks	3,577,838
Total Average Circulation of these Banks for the past month	£9,773,338

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 13th February last, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£23,512
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	169,988
Total decrease on the month	£146,476

And, as compared with the month ending March 13th, 1857, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£977,709
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	250,640
Total decrease on the year	£1,228,349

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows:—

6 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue	£6,384,4
16 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue	2,867,1
22 Banks in all, allowed to issue	£9,441,5

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation:—

Irish Banks are below their fixed issue	£156,4
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue	490,8
Total above the fixed issue	£331,4

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows:—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks	£2,386,4
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks	2,087,9
Total of Gold and Silver Coin	£4,474,3

Being an increase of £122,978 on the part of the Irish Banks, and a decrease of £42,4 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO MARCH 13, 1858.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 13th March, 1858:—

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending 13th March, as compared with the previous month:—

	Feb. 13.	Mar. 13.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England (month ending Mar. 10)	£19,841,379	£19,674,569	—	£166,7
Private Banks	3,143,950	3,060,039	—	83,9
Joint-Stock Banks	2,538,454	2,552,047	13,593	—
Total in England	25,523,683	25,286,655	13,593	250,6
Scotland	3,747,826	3,577,838	—	169,9
Ireland	6,171,988	6,195,500	23,512	—
United Kingdom	£35,443,497	£35,059,993	£37,105	£420,6

The comparison of the month ending March 14th, 1857, with the month ending March 13th, 1858, shows an *increase* in the Bank of England circulation of £1,035,4 a *decrease* in Private Banks of £575,609, and a *decrease* in Joint-Stock Banks £491,013; being a total *decrease* in England of £31,157; while in Scotland there is a *decrease* of £250,640; and in Ireland a *decrease* of £977,709. Thus showing that the month ending 13th March, as compared with the same period last year, presents a *decrease* of £31,157 in *England*, and a *decrease* of £1,259,506 in the *United Kingdom*.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending March 10 gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £17,571,227. On a comparison this with the Return for the month ending February 13th, there appears to be an increa of £2,020,507; and an *increase* of £7,232,086 as compared with the same period last ye

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the mon ending 13th March, was £4,473,826; being an *increase* of £80,153 as compared wi the return of the previous month, and an *increase* of £230,374 as compared with t corresponding period last year.

Waterlow and Sons, Printers Carpenters' Hall, London Wall.

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—*Daily Prices from 27th March to 27th April, 1858, inclusive.*

	27	29	30	31	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9
Bank Stock, div. 5½ p.c. ½-year	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	GOOD FRIDAY.	Holiday.—Stock Exchange shut by order of the Committee.	shut	221	220½	220½	220
3 per Ct. Red. Anns.	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut			shut	95½	95¼	95¼	95¾
Ditto for opening	..	..	..	..	..			95⅞	..	..	95¼	..
3 per ct. Consols Anns.	97⅝	97	97⅛	96⅞	97			96¾	96⅝	96⅝	96⅝	96½
New 3 per cent. Anns.	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut			shut	95½	95¼	95¼	95⅝
Ditto ex. div. for opening	..	96⅛	96⅛	95⅞	..			95½	..	..	95⅜	95¼
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut			shut	shut	shut	shut	1¾
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut			shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	..	..	..	..	..			..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Apl. 5, 1885	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut			shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
India Stock (div. 10½ percent.	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut			shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
Ditto Loan Debentures	..	..	..	..	..			..	98¼	98½	98⅝	98¾
Ditto Ditto Scrip	..	..	..	..	..			..	..	..	..	..
Do. Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)	21*sp*	24*sp*	..	18*sp*	12*sp*			16*sp*	..	16*sp*	18*sp*	17*sp*
Ditto, under £500	..	..	20*sp*	..	..			19*sp*	20*sp*	16*sp*	22*sp*	17*sp*
Bank Stock for ac. 8th April	227	227	..	227	225½			226	..	..	..	..
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 8th April	97⅛	97	97⅛	96⅞	96⅞			96⅝	96⅝	96½	..	..
Ditto for account 6th May	..	..	..	..	..			..	..	..	96½	96⅜
Ex. Bills £1000, 2½d. *per diem*	38*sp*	35*sp*	38*sp*	38*sp*	34*sp*			35*sp*	38*sp*	35*sp*	..	38*sp*
Ditto. £500 do.	..	36*sp*	..	..	..			39*sp*	..	37*sp*	35*sp*	..
Ditto. Small do.	..	..	38*sp*	..	..			35*sp*	..	37*sp*	39*sp*	35*sp*
Ditto Bonds A 1858 3½ p.c.	..	..	..	..	100			..	..	..	..	..
Ditto under £1000	..	..	..	..	99⅞			99⅞	..	..	..	..
Ditto B 1859	100⅞	100⅞	101	..	100⅞			100⅞	101	..	101	..
Ditto under £1000	..	101½	..	100⅞	..			..	..	..	..	..

	10	12	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	21	22	23	24	26	27
Bank Stock, div. 5½ p.c. ½-year	220	220½	220	222	222	222	..	220	222	221½	222	220½	220½	221¼	222
3 per Ct. Red. Anns.	95⅝	95½	95½	95⅝	95⅜	95⅝	95¼	95⅜	95½	95⅝	95¾	95⅝	95⅝	95¾	95⅛
Ditto for opening	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 per ct. Consols Anns.	96⅝	96⅝	96⅝	96¾	96⅝	96½	96⅝	96½	96¾	96⅞	96⅞	96⅞	97	97	97⅛
New 3 per cent. Anns.	96⅝	95⅛	95⅜	95⅜	95⅜	95¼	95¼	95½	95½	95⅞	95⅝	95½	95¾	95⅞	96
Ditto ex. div. for opening	..	..	..	..	..	95½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	shut	1⅝	1¾	1¾	1⅞	1¼	1¾	1⅞	1⅝	1⅞	1¾	1¾	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	shut	shut	1⅝	..	1½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1⅞	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Apl. 5, 1885	shut	shut	shut	..	18	..	..	18⅝	..	..	..	18⅝	..	18⅞	..
India Stock (div. 10½ percent.	223	220½	..	..	223	220½	..	220½	222	..	..	..	..	223	223
Ditto Loan Debentures	..	99⅝	99⅝	99⅝	..	99⅝	99⅝	99½	99¾	99	99½	99¾	..	99⅞	..
Ditto Ditto Scrip	99½	99¾	99¾	99½	99⅞	99⅞	99⅝	99¾	99⅞	99¾	99¾	par	99¾	99⅞	par
Do. Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)	..	22*sp*	18*sp*	20*sp*	21*sp*	21*sp*	..	21*sp*	..	..	21*sp*	20*sp*	18*sp*	..	..
Ditto, under £500	21*sp*	18*sp*	21*sp*	17*sp*	18*sp*	21*sp*	21*sp*	..	..	..	..	21*sp*	21*sp*	17*sp*	17*sp*
Bank Stock for ac. 8th April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 8th April	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto for account 6th May	96½	96¾	96½	96⅝	96¾	96½	96⅝	96¾	96⅜	96⅞	96⅞	96⅞	97	97⅛	97⅛
Ex. Bills £1000, 2½d. *per diem*	38*sp*	35*sp*	39*sp*	37*sp*	36*sp*	34*sp*	33*sp*	33*sp*	36*sp*	33*sp*	33*sp*	37*sp*	34*sp*	37*sp*	33*sp*
Ditto. £500 do.	35*sp*	39*sp*	..	35*sp*	38*sp*	35*sp*	33*sp*	..	34*sp*	33*sp*	..	37*sp*	..	..	33*sp*
Ditto. Small do.	..	39*sp*	39*sp*	38*sp*	39*sp*	..	37*sp*	33*sp*	..	37*sp*	37*sp*	37*sp*	..	34*sp*	33*sp*
Ditto Bonds A 1858 3½ p.c.	..	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto under £1000	..	..	..	100	..	..	..	..	..	99⅞	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto B 1859	..	101	101	..	101	..	101	101	100⅞	..	..	..	..	100⅞	..
Ditto under £1000	..	..	..	101½	..	100⅞	100⅞	100⅞	..	..	100⅞	100⅞	..	..	..

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

				London Latest Prices.
Australasia	£40 sh.,	£40	0 pd.	£81½
British North American	50	50	0	56
Bank of London	100	50	0	48
Commercial of London	100	20	0	20
Colonial	100	25	0	27
City Bank	100	50	0	58½
London and Westminster	100	20	0	45¼
London Joint Stock	50	10	0	30
Oriental Bank	25	25	0	38¼
Provincial of Ireland	100	25	0	62
National Bank	50	25	0	39
National Provincial of England	150	35	0	77½
South Australian	25	25	0	30
Union of Australia	25	25	0	45½
Union of London	20	10	0	23½
London and County	50	20	0	28½
London Chartered of Australia	20	20	0	18½
Bk. of India, & Austra. Chartrd.	20	20	0	19⅞
New South Wales	20	20	0	43½

FOREIGN STOCKS (*27th April.*)

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	102
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	103
Danish 5 per Cent.	102½
Mexican 3 per Cent.	20½
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	82½
Portuguese Bonds, 3 per Cent.	45½
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 per Cent. in £ Ster.	110½
Ditto, 4½ per cent.	101½
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cents.	44½
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	26¾
Turkish 6 per Cent.	98⅝ x.d.
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Dutch 2½ per Cent.	66⅜
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	99½
French 4½ per Cent., at Paris, April 27,	93f. 25c.
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	69f. 50c.

RAILWAY SHARES.

Company.	Paid up £	Prices Mar. 26.	Prices April 27.
Caledonian	100	87¾	84¾
Eastern Counties	100	58¾	60¾
Great Northern	100	103	103
Great Western	100	58½	56¾
London and Blackwall	13½	6⅝	6¼
London and Brighton	100	106	106
——— North-West.	100	95½	94½
——— South-West.	100	92½	94½
Midland	100	96½	93¾
South-Eastern	100	69½	71
York, Newcsle. & Berwick	100	91½	92¾
York & North Midland	100	74¾	74½

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follow

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1858. Mar. 24th.	1858. Mar. 31st.	1858. April 7th.	1858. April 14th.
	£	£	£	£
Notes issued	32,320,730	32,280,385	31,994,545	31,962,650
Government debentures	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities	5,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900
Gold coin and bullion	17,845,730	17,805,385	17,519,545	17,487,650
Silver bullion	—	—	—	—
	32,320,730	32,280,385	31,994,545	31,962,650

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1858. Mar. 24th.	1858. Mar. 31st.	1858. April 7th.	1858. April 14th.
	£	£	£	£
Proprietors' capital	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000
Rest	3,893,655	3,897,613	3,123,736	3,158,306
Public deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	7,693,273	7,630,763	6,988,972	2,989,489
Other deposits	13,574,781	12,991,854	13,733 515	16,915,997
Seven day and other bills	894,979	840,165	815,817	836,310
	40,609,687	39,912,597	39,215,040	38,453,092
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuities)	9,991,993	9,991,993	9,953,978	9,743,284
Other securities	16,885,904	16,857,437	16,620,004	16,408,494
Notes	13,013,705	12,329,635	11,849,205	11,481,635
Gold and silver coin	888,085	823,532	791,853	819,679
	40,609,687	39,912,597	39,215,040	38,453,092

The Exchanges.

	Mar. 12th.	Mar. 19th.	Mar. 26th.	April 1st.
Amsterdam, short	11 14½	11 15	11 15	11 15½
Ditto 3 months	11 17	11 17½	11 17½	11 18
Rotterdam, ditto	11 17	11 17½	11 17½	11 18
Antwerp, ditto	25 32½	25 35	25 35	25 37½
Brussels, ditto	25 32½	25 35	25 35	25 37½
Hamburgh, ditto	13 6½	13 6	13 6½	13 6½
Paris, short	25 15	25 15	25 15	25 12½
Paris, 3 months	25 40	25 37½	25 40	25 37½
Marseilles, ditto	25 40	25 37½	25 40	25 40
Frankfort, ditto	118½	118½	118½	118¾
Vienna, ditto	10 30	10 32	10 34	10 35
Trieste, ditto	10 32	10 32	10 36	10 36
Petersburgh, ditto	35½	35½	35½	35⅝
Madrid, ditto	49½	49	49	49
Cadiz, ditto	49⅝	49½	49½	49½
Leghorn, ditto	29 67½	29 70	29 70	29 70
Genoa, ditto	25 55	25 56	25 60	25 57½
Naples, ditto	42	41⅝	41¾	41¼
Palermo, ditto	124⅝	—	125	125
Messina, ditto	125	—	125½	125½
Lisbon, ditto	51⅝	51½	51⅝	51½
Oporto, ditto	51⅝	51⅝	52⅛	51⅝
Rio Janeiro 60 dys. 'dte	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars (Standard)	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9
Mexican Dollars	0 0 0	0 5 0	0 4 11½	0 0 0
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 5 1[illegible]	0 5 1⅛	0 5 1⅛	0 5 1⅛

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
			Mar. 20.	Mar. 27.	April 3.	April 10.
		£	£	£	£	£
1	Andover Bank	17,751	8,403	8,720	8,988	8,693
2	Ashford Bank	11,849	9,531	10,430	12,623	12,491
3	Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	18,018	18,410	20,022	20,628
4	Baldock and Biggleswade Bank	37,223	26,615	27,163	26,530	26,839
5	Barnstaple Bank	17,182	7,695	9,054	8,901	8,652
6	Basingstoke and Odiham Bank	24,730	20,314	20,505	20,385	21,090
7	Bedford Bank.	34,218	30,812	32,117	32,878	33,705
8	Bewdley Bank	18,597	8,304	9,224	9,139	8,874
9	Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank	27,090	14,815	14,362	14,601	14,469
10	BirminghamBank—Attwoods&Co.	23,695	20,050	20,300	22,112	23,025
11	Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	58,451	62,027	67,845	76,560
12	Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	14,680	13,821	14,020	14,175
13	Bridgewater Bank	10,028	6,958	7,483	7,557	7,557
14	Bristol Bank	48,277	29,909	29,755	30,904	31,541
15	Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank	26,717	14,079	14,447	15,224	15,304
16	Buckingham Bank	29,557	22,443	23,392	22,654	23,329
17	Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	57,107	58,252	59,305	58,171
18	Banbury Bank	43,457	28,343	29,311	31,498	32,503
19	Banbury Old Bank	55,153	24,561	25,940	25,856	26,048
20	Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	33,097	34,748	34,352	34,876
21	Birmingham Bk.—Lloyds & Co	38,816	18,772	19,071	20,088	23,160
22	Bradford Old Bank	12,676	12,399	11,644	11,363	12,161
23	Brecon Old Bank	68,271	32,826	32,875	34,072	34,329
24	Brighton Union Bank	33,794	16,636	17,287	18,139	17,985
25	Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	9,305	9,722	10,330	11,475
26	Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,371	2,375	2,445	2,420
27	Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	13,046	12,963	12,362	12,442
28	Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	41,658	42,905	43,935	44,030
29	Canterbury Bank	33,671	28,020	28,173	29,385	31,391
30	Carmarthen Bank	23,597	15,747	15,231	14,966	15,590
31	Chertsey Bank	3,436	2,786	2,631	2,640	2,966
32	Colchester Bank	25,082	14,838	15,562	16,357	16,591
33	Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	33,194	33,963	33,455	34,921
34	Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co.	49,869	37,958	37,742	38,615	40,315
35	Coventry Bank	12,045	5,035	5,429	5,433	5,285
36	City Bank, Exeter	21,527	16,491	16,772	17,158	17,070
37	Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co.	77,154	54,130	57,822	63,025	66,534
38	Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	6,978	7,011	7,924	7,934
39	Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	10,626	11,874	12,806	12,948
40	Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	33,620	36,779	40,087	40,860
41	Derby Old Bank	27,237	27,998	27,650	25,721	26,887
42	Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	6,723	7,025	7,672	7,782
43	Diss Bank	10,657	10,035	10,133	10,042	10,079
44	Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	54,331	55,235	55,344	58,791
45	Darlington Bank	86,218	73,199	78,667	83,757	85,538
46	Devonport Bank	10,664	8,058	8,558	8,739	9,215
47	Dorchester Old Bank	48 807	38,465	38,906	39,790	43,329
48	East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	72,713	76,238	80,508	79,988
49	East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	47,313	48,426	51,036	53,003
50	Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	37,926	37,969	38,947	39,494
51	Exeter Bank	37,894	23,422	25,165	25,855	25,802
52	Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	6,011	6,200	6,761	7,207
53	Farnham Bank	14,202	9,691	9,810	9,772	10,035
54	Faversham Bank	6,681	5,726	5 890	5,914	6,120
55	Godalming Bank	6,322	4,866	4,899	5,026	4,980
56	Guildford Bank	14,524	11,640	11,656	12,512	13,286
57	Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	24,210	25,574	27,309	30,543

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
			Mar. 20.	Mar. 27.	April 3.	Ap
		£	£	£	£	
58	Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	11,707	12,059	11,943	12
59	Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	17,412	16,837	18,638	21
60	Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	42,213	41,985	42,853	44
61	Harwich Bank	5,778	3,488	3,535	3,762	4
62	Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	30,638	30,978	31,785	31
63	Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	19,308	18,533	17,869	18
64	Ipswich Bank	21,901	19,455	19,909	20,374	20
65	Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	58,526	59,356	60,489	61
66	Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	8,763	9,399	9,619	9
67	Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	21,409	21,669	22,554	22
68	Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	16,703	17,081	18,230	19
69	Kendal Bank	44,663	39,969	40,919	41,709	43
70	Longton Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,276	5,215	5,323	5
71	Leeds Bank	53,357	48,601	49,039	49,250	51
72	Leeds Union Bank	37,459	36,513	36,004	36,893	36
73	Leicester Bank	32,322	23,723	24,689	26,400	27
74	Lewes Old Bank	44,836	19,975	20,867	21,153	21
75	Lincoln Bank	100,342	69,251	71,235	76,093	80
76	Llandovery Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	16,305	16,985	16,123	17
77	Loughborough Bank	7,359	7,080	7,460	7,855	6
78	Lymington Bank	5,038	3,915	3,741	3,565	3
89	Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	30,755	31,085	31,926	32
80	Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	7,964	9,510	10,274	10
81	Macclesfield Bank	15,760	11,498	12,135	13,088	13
82	Manningtree Bank	7,692	1,686	1,503	1,835	2
83	Merionethshire Bank	10,906	5,336	5,480	5,885	6
84	Miners' Bank	18,688	12,379	12,795	13,147	12
85	Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	25,600	26,160	25,895	26
86	Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	9,575	10,361	10,383	10
87	Newark Bank	28,788	17,715	18,706	18,314	19
88	Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	42,637	45,824	46,880	52
89	Newbury Bank	36,787	16,465	17,234	17,885	17
90	Newmarket Bank	23,098	15,657	16,043	15,818	15
91	Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	47,995	48,085	49,073	49
92	Norwich and Norfolk Bank	105,519	88,105	89,750	90,319	92
93	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	10,866	7,242	7,645	8,695	8
94	Nuneaton Bank	5,898	2,802	2,524	2,930	3
95	Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	17,312	17,834	18,645	20
96	New Sarum Bank.—Everett and Pinckneys	15,659	8,204	8,045	8,319	8
97	Nottingham Bank	31,047	28,295	28,704	29,591	32
98	Oswestry Bank	18,471	8,109	8,104	8,163	8
99	Oxford Old Bank	34,391	30,920	32,123	32,366	32
100	Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	5,884	6,336	6,995	7
101	Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	10,278	10,721	10,704	10
102	Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	40,750	41,757	42,540	43
103	Penzance Bank	11,405	7,947	7,509	7,114	7
104	Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	8,552	9,163	9,445	9
105	Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	6,635	6,747	6,463	6
106	Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	24,262	24,199	25,219	25
107	Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	27,143	27,004	26,616	27
108	Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	5,150	5,072	5,234	5
109	Rochdale Bank	5,590	2,900	2,971	3,168	3
110	Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	6,161	6,882	6,614	7
111	Royston Bank	16,393	12,072	12,577	13,046	13
112	Rugby Bank	17,250	8,300	8,375	9,559	9
113	Rye Bank	29,864	8,261	9,609	11,478	11
114	Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire	4,420	4,126	3,969	4,310	4
115	Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	29,557	29,045	28,368	27

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorized Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Mar. 20.	Mar. 27.	April 3.	April 10.
		£	£	£	£	£
116	Salop Bank	22,338	10,819	10,587	11,466	11,789
117	Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	19,143	20,235	21,712	22,620
118	Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	29,948	30,818	33,046	34,734
119	Sittingbourne and Milton Bank	4,789	2,041	2,105	2,321	2,292
120	Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	9,819	9,830	11,055	11,955
121	Southwell Bank	14,744	10,173	10,343	11,003	11,635
122	Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	2,835	2,665	2,689	2,921
123	Stafford Old Bank	14,166	11,457	12,898	13,168	12,317
124	Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	24,830	24,770	25,181	26,747
125	Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	20,175	20,924	21,831	21,445
126	Taunton Bank	29,799	20,971	21,686	22,554	22,966
127	Tavistock Bank	13,421	7,425	7,111	7,642	8,798
128	Thornbury Bank	10,026	10,149	10,221	9,516	9,506
129	Tiverton and Devonshire Bank	13,470	9,301	9,752	10,386	10,332
130	Thrapstone and Kettering Bank	11,559	11,153	11,230	11,720	11,470
131	Tring Bank and Chesham Bank	13,531	12,809	13,261	13,691	13,986
132	Towcester Old Bank	10,801	6,165	6,536	6,694	6,885
133	Town and County of Poole Bk.					
134	and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	7,801	8,043	8,330	8,431
	Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	14,002	14,836	16,068	15,083
135	Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	10,535	11,022	10,895	11,881
136	Wallingford Bank	17,064	6,355	6,515	6,486	6,238
137	Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	20,175	20,840	20,492	21,506
138	Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	2,308	2,459	2,506	2,405
139	West Riding Bank	46,158	37,500	37,796	38,006	40,267
140	Whitby Old Bank	14,258	12,563	12,989	12,403	13,519
141	Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	15,500	15,865	15,860	16,332
142	Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	13,055	12,537	12,011	12,296
143	Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	31,562	33,031	34,432	36,089
144	Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	44,042	44,401	45,216	49,070
145	Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	6,591	6,480	6,227	6,427
146	Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	7,317	7,616	7,932	8,026
147	Worcester Old Bank	87,448	47,301	48,405	51,171	51,592
148	Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	6,588	6,445	6,697	7,030
149	Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	37,467	38,053	39,382	39,850
150	Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	10,775	10,809	11,531	11,335
151	York Bank	46,387	35,780	35,596	37,228	38,808

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1	Bank of Westmoreland	12,225	8,630	8,962	9,004	9,315
2	Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	8,759	8,363	8,358	8,183
3	Bradford Banking Company	49,292	42,390	42,220	43,184	44,417
4	Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	8,312	8,455	8,385	9,638
5	Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	25,707	26,439	26,605	28,185
6	Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	16,253	15,410	16,515	17,596
7	Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	44,973	47,075	49,336	50,942

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
			Mar. 20.	Mar. 27.	April 3.	
		£	£	£	£	
8	Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	10,197	10,267	10,540	
9	Cumberland Union Banking Co ...	35,395	32,107	31,769	32,923	
10	Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	26,734	20,809	20,475	21,845	
11	Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	12,348	13,940	14,294	
12	County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	97,152	99,903	103,559	
13	Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	21,638	22,029	21,699	
14	Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	18,892	19,476	19,638	
15	Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	26,333	27,685	27,262	
16	Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	40,093	19,175	21,543	19,329	
17	Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	13,650	13,544	14,821	
18	East of England Bank	25,025	24,075	24,335	24,120	
19	Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	120,513	126,887	128,310	
20	Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	16,229	18,718	19,206	
21	Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	29,684	29,065	29,893	
22	Hull Banking Company	29,333	20,054	20,740	22,070	
23	Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	7,858	7,472	7,443	
24	Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	34,404	33,107	33,696	
25	Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,517	1,451	1,462	
26	Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	12,978	12,546	13,266	
27	Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	22,248	22,685	22,960	
28	Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	3,142	2,915	2,740	
29	Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	57,143	56,254	56,931	
30	Leeds Banking Company	23,076	23,022	22,705	22,582	
31	Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	60,800	65,059	70,466	
32	Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co..	51,620	42,810	45,110	49,282	
33	Leamington Priors and Warwick-shire Bank	13,875	9,276	9,235	9,039	
34	Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	8,148	8,520	10,400	
35	Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	23,989	24,358	28,589	
36	Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	26,488	26,555	27,515	
37	National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	360,955	383,018	401,338	
38	North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	40,523	38,701	39,315	
39	Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	69,466	72,041	74,868	
40	Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	18,898	19,345	19,980	
41	North and South Wales Bank.....	63,951	39,747	43,031	47,523	
42	Parr's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	46,890	47,629	48,074	
43	Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	1,353	1,401	1,456	
44	Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	30,471	31,620	32,511	
45	Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	45,543	49,197	50,776	
46	Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	311,754	321,095	334,049	
47	Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	28,217	30,752	32,125	
48	Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	47,377	47,890	50,795	
49	Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	18,710	20,295	21,485	
50	Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	46,700	47,641	50,355	
51	Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	42,539	43,779	48,213	
52	Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	9,189	10,266	11,989	
53	Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	12,159	12,452	13,050	
54	Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	20,843	21,231	21,322	
55	Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	24,205	24,862	25,179	
56	West of England and South Wales District Bank.....	83,535	57,658	59,461	61,976	
57	Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	72,150	74,622	75,260	
58	West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	31,260	30,874	31,873	
59	Whitchurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	3,461	3,673	3,719	
60	Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	6,004	5,418	5,612	
61	York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	63,117	64,673	67,291	
62	York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	80,290	81,540	82,609	
63	Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	117,365	118,252	118,747	

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	Mar. 20.	Mar. 27.	April 3.	April 10.
151 Private Banks.....	£4,404,935	£3,074,107	£3,152,082	£3,252,016	£3,360,107
63 Joint-Stock Banks..	3,302,357	2,618,452	2,699,431	2,798,687	2,880,947
214 Totals	7,707,292	5,692,559	5,851,513	6,050,703	6,241,054

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending April 10th:—

Private Banks	£3,209,578
Joint-Stock Banks	2,749,379
Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above	£5,958,957

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the month ending 13th March last, it shows:—

An *increase* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£149,539
An *increase* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	197,332
Total *increase* on the month.....	£346,871

And, as compared with the month ending April 11th, 1857, it shows—

A *decrease* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£550,230
A *decrease* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	405,074
Total *decrease*, as compared with the same period of last year	£955,304

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	£1,195,357
The Joint-Stock Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	552,978
Total BELOW the fixed issues	£1,748,335

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH *and* SCOTCH BANKS *during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 10th day of April*, 1858.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt. of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	1,956,375	1,320,050	3,276,425	726,568
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	403,041	545,380	948,421	446,967
Belfast Bank	281,611	66,307	303,745	370,052	266,195
Northern Bank	243,440	43,152	214,107	257,260	189,149
Ulster Bank	311,079	74,237	312,773	387,010	165,171
The National Bank	852,269	513,697	481,912	995,610	512,415
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	3,056,809	3,177,967	6,234,778	2,306,465

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	145,265	275,892	421,157	240,645
Royal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	132,857	226,376	359,233	304,506
British Linen Company	438,024	158,502	279,678	438,180	324,101
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	152,323	289,723	442,047	233,562
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	126,951	235,735	362,686	215,292
Union Bank of Scotland and Banking Com. in Aberdeen	454,346	172,711	324,609	497,320	153,746
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	63,792	82,278	146,070	44,329
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	42,982	65,179	108,161	61,766
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	84,938	92,813	177,751	68,243
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	13,015	23,482	36,497	39,934
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	11,287	19,252	30,539	22,227
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	55,375	22,044	77,419	2,050
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	73,320	124,732	198,052	126,822
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	91,188	118,441	209,630	201,583
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	17,367	40,505	57,873	34,873
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	16,995	31,782	48,777	27,879
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,358,868	2,252,521	3,611,392	2,101,558

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO APRIL 10, 1858.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 10th April, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz.:—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks.. £6,234,778
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks 3,611,392

Total Average Circulation of these Banks for the past month £9,846,170

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 13th March last, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks £39,378
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 33,554

Total increase on the month £72,932

And, as compared with the month ending April 11th, 1857, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks £919,500
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks 221,193

Total decrease on the year..... £1,140,693

The fixed issues of the Irish and Sc Banks at the present time are given in *Banking Almanac*, as follows:—

6 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue.... £6,35
16 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue .. 3,65

22 Banks in all, allowed to issue..... £9,44

The following appears, therefore, to be comparative state of the circulation:—

Irish Banks are below their fixed issue .. £11
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue 32

Total above the fixed issue £66

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at head offices of the several banks, during past month, have been as follows:—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks £2,36
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks 2,10

Total of Gold and Silver Coin £4,46

Being a decrease of £284,569 on the par the Irish Banks, and an increase of £218, on the part of the Scotch Banks, on several amounts held by them during preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO APRIL 10, 1858.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for month ending the 10th April, 1858:—

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending 10th April, as compared with the previous month:—

	Mar. 13.	April 10.	Increase.	Decrease
Bank of England (month ending April 7)	£19,674,569	£19,653,499	—	£21,0
Private Banks	2,060,629	2,209,578	149,539	—
Joint-Stock Banks	2,552,647	2,749,379	197,232	—
Total in England	25,286,635	25,612,456	346,671	21,0
Scotland	3,577,828	3,611,392	33,554	—
Ireland	6,195,800	6,224,778	30,278	—
United Kingdom	£35,059,993	£35,456,626	£410,703	£21,0

The comparison of the month ending April 11th, 1857, with the month endi April 10th, 1858, shows an *increase* in the Bank of England circulation of £420,7 a *decrease* in Private Banks of £550,230, and a *decrease* in Joint-Stock Banks £405,074; being a total *decrease* in England of £534,570; while in Scotland there i *decrease* of £221,193; and in Ireland a *decrease* of £919,500. Thus showing that month ending 10th April, as compared with the same period last year, present *decrease* of £534,570 in *England*, and a *decrease* of £1,675,263 in the *United Kingdom*.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending April 7 gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £18,404,071. On a comparison this with the Return for the month ending March 13th, there appears to be an increa of £832,844; and an *increase* of £8,724,524 as compared with the same period last yea

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the mo ending 10th April, was £4,408,023; being a *decrease* of £65,803 as compared w the return of the previous month, and an *increase* of £389,765 as compared with corresponding period last year.

Whiting and Sons, Printers Carpenters' Hall, London Wall.

	28	29	30	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	17	18	19	20	21	22	24	25
Bank Stock, div. 5½ p.c. ½-year	222	222	221⅛	Holiday.—Stock Exchange shut by order of the Committee.	222⅛	221½	221¼	221⅛	223	222	223	221	222	222½	223	221⅛	222	222⅛	..	221	221	221¼	221	222⅛
3 per Ct. Red. Anns.	95⅝	96¼	96¼		96⅛	96	96⅛	96⅜	96½	96¼	96⅛	95¾	95¾	96	95¼	95⅝	95⅞	9[illegible]	96⅛	96¼	96⅜	96⅜	96⅛	96⅜
3 per ct. Consols Anns.	97⅛	97¼	97¼		97⅜	97⅝	97⅝	97¾	97¾	97¾	97⅜	97⅜	97⅜	97⅜	97⅛	97¼	97⅜	97⅛	97⅝	97⅜	97⅜	98⅛	98	97¾
New 3 per cent. Anns.	96⅜	96⅛	96		96	96⅛	96⅜	96⅛	96⅛	96⅜	96⅛	96⅛	96⅛	95¼	95¼	96	96¼	96¼	96⅜	96⅜	96½	96¾	96¼	96½
New 3½ per cent.	..	..	..		..	..	103	..	..	..	..	105	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New 2½ per cent.	..	..	..		..	..	81	81	..	.	..	..	..	..	80½	82	..	80½	..	..	81½	81	..	..
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	1⅝	1¾	1⅝		..	1⅝	1¾	1⅝	..	..	..	1⅝	..	..	..	..	1⅝	1⅝	..	..	1⅝	..	1⅝	1⅝
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	..	..	1⅝		1⅝	..	..	1⅝	..	..	..	1⅝	..	1½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	1⅞	..	..		1⅞	1⅞	..	1⅞	..	..	..	1⅞	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1⅞
Ditto 30 years, Apl. 5, 1885	18⅛	18⅜	18⅜		..	18⅜	18⅞	18⅜	..	..	18⅜	18¼	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18¼	18⅜	18¼	15⅝	18¼
India Stock (div. 10½ percent.	..	223	..		225	222½	223½	225	225	..	..	224	225½	223½	..	..	224	..	224½	..	..	..	..	221
Ditto Loan Debentures	par	100⅜	..		100¼	100⅛	100⅜	100½	100⅝	100⅜	..	100½	100⅜	100⅜	100⅜	100⅜	100½	100¼	100	100½	par	..	100¼	..
Ditto Ditto Scrip	100¼	100⅛	100⅛		100⅜	100⅜	100½	..	100¾	100⅜	100⅜	100⅜	..	100⅜	100½	..	100⅜	100⅞	..	100½	..	100⅛	..	..
Do. Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)	21sp	21sp	18sp		20sp	..	..	22sp	..	20sp	24sp	24sp	..	..	22sp	22sp	24sp	22sp	22sp	..	22sp	..	..	24sp
Ditto, under £500	21sp	22sp	21sp		21sp	18sp	18sp	..	19sp	20sp	..	24sp	..	..	24sp	..	24sp	22sp	25sp	25sp	..	21sp	..	24sp
Bank stock for ac. 6th May	..	..	..		..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 6th May	97⅝	97⅝	97¼		97¼	97½	97⅜	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..
Ditto for account 3rd June	..	..	..		..	..	..	98	97⅞	97⅛	9[illegible]	97½	97⅜	97½	97⅜	97⅜	97½	97¼	97⅜	97¾	97⅝	98¼	97⅞	97⅞
Ex. Bills £1000, 2½d. *per diem*	36sp	34sp	36sp		36sp	37sp	38sp	39sp	36sp	37sp	40sp	37sp	40sp	41sp	40sp	..	40sp	37sp	39sp	40sp	..	40sp	40sp	38sp
Ditto. £500 do.	.	37sp	36sp		..	..	..	39sp	36sp	..	..	37sp	..	40sp	..	38sp	37sp	40sp	39sp	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto. Small do.	35sp	37sp	37sp		40sp	34sp	..	39sp	36sp	40sp	..	40sp	..	40sp	40sp	38sp	40sp	40sp	37sp	37sp	45sp	..	35sp	..
Ditto Bonds A 1858 3½ p.c.	..	..	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto under £1000	101	..	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto B 1859	100⅞	..	..		..	101	101	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	101¼
Ditto under £1000	..	..	..		..	..	101½	..	101½	..	..	101½	101	..	101¼	101⅜	101⅜	101¼	101½	101½	101½	..	..	..

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

				London Latest Prices.
Australasia	£40 sh.,	£40	0 pd.	£80
British North American	50	50	0	57
Bank of London	100	50	0	46
Commercial of London	100	20	0	20
Colonial	100	25	0	27¼
City Bank	100	50	0	57
London and Westminster	100	20	0	45
London Joint Stock	50	10	0	30
Oriental Bank	25	25	0	39
Provincial of Ireland	100	25	0	63
National Bank	50	25	0	40½
National Provincial of England	150	35	0	79
South Australian	25	25	0	29½
Union of Australia	25	25	0	46
Union of London	20	10	0	23½
London and County	50	20	0	27½
London Chartered of Australia	20	20	0	19⅝
Bk. of India, & Austra. Chartrd.	20	20	0	19⅝
New South Wales	20	20	0	43
Bank of Egypt	25	25	0	21½
Ottoman Bank	20	20	0	17¾

FOREIGN STOCKS (*27th May.*)

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	102½
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	103½
Danish 5 per Cent.	102½
Mexican 3 per Cent.	20⅝
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	87
Portuguese Bonds, 3 per Cent.	46½
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5perCent. in £ Ster.	112
Ditto, 4½ per cent.	102
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cents.	44⅛
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	27
Turkish 6 per Cent.	96½
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Dutch 2½ per Cent.	66¼
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	99⅝
French 4½ per Cent., at Paris, May 27,	**93f. 35c.**
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	**69f. 65c.**

RAILWAY SHARES.

Company.	Paid up £	Prices April 7	Prices May 27.
Caledonian.	100	84¾	84
Eastern Counties	100	60¾	61½
Great Northern	100	103	103¼
Great Western	100	56¾	55¼
London and Blackwall	13½	6¼	6½
London and Brighton	100	106	108
——— North-West.	100	94½	93½
——— South-West.	100	94¾	95
Midland	100	93¾	92¾
South-Eastern	100	71	69½
York, Newcsle. & Berwick	100	92¾	92
York & North Midland	100	74¾	72½

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
			April 17.	April 24.	May 1.	May 8.
		£	£	£	£	£
58	Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	13,096	12,500	12,588	12,775
59	Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	23,194	22,256	18,986	15,383
60	Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	44,155	43,775	43,964	44,954
61	Harwich Bank	5,778	3,824	3,967	3,760	3,991
62	Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	32,397	33,962	33,614	34,401
63	Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	18,991	17,436	17,643	18,505
64	Ipswich Bank	21,901	20,408	19,720	19,490	19,802
65	Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	60,663	59,256	57,450	56,456
66	Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	9,515	9,567	9,445	9,210
67	Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	21,833	21,013	20,139	20,532
68	Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	18,731	19,025	19,925	19,929
69	Kendal Bank	44,663	44,410	45,539	45,553	43,128
70	Longton Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,214	5,100	5,197	5,225
71	Leeds Bank	53,357	55,180	55,608	53,191	48,713
72	Leeds Union Bank	37,459	36,823	36,607	36,686	36,728
73	Leicester Bank	32,322	26,993	27,168	28,186	29,014
74	Lewes Old Bank	44,836	22,495	21,750	20,618	20,760
75	Lincoln Bank	100,342	80,935	82,514	88,066	87,625
76	Llandovery Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	20,028	19,330	19,964	24,824
77	Loughborough Bank	7,359	6,488	6,735	7,283	7,350
78	Lymington Bank	5,038	4,116	3,735	3,701	3,648
89	Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	33,952	33,390	34,240	32,475
80	Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	10,792	11,818	11,900	12,730
81	Macclesfield Bank	15,760	13,765	13,729	14,555	14,608
82	Manningtree Bank	7,692	2,564	2,060	1,807	1,935
83	Merionethshire Bank	10,906	6,228	6,939	6,756	6,415
84	Miners' Bank	18,688	12,177	12,276	12,592	13,483
85	Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	27,449	26,937	27,212	29,492
86	Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	11,412	10,897	10,620	11,910
87	Newark Bank	28,788	20,730	20,638	21,130	21,076
88	Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	49,855	49,749	49,617	49,229
89	Newbury Bank	36,787	18,114	18,462	19,316	19,086
90	Newmarket Bank	23,098	16,443	18,177	18,379	17,061
91	Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	48,650	47,620	46,720	47,080
92	Norwich and Norfolk Bank	105,519	94,344	93,452	93,945	93,441
93	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	10,866	9,095	8,533	8,516	8,573
94	Nuneaton Bank	5,898	2,730	2,826	2,866	2,710
95	Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	20,165	20,888	21,000	20,694
96	New Sarum Bank.—Everett and Pinckneys	15,659	8,894	8,865	8,613	8,439
97	Nottingham Bank	31,047	31,051	29,870	29,730	32,412
98	Oswestry Bank	18,471	8,757	8,630	8,748	10,542
99	Oxford Old Bank	34,391	32,250	32,988	33,313	34,705
100	Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	7,484	7,489	7,142	7,238
101	Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	9,751	9,547	9,427	8,917
102	Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	43,590	43,540	42,634	43,091
103	Penzance Bank	11,405	6,910	6,709	6,985	6,930
104	Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	9,998	10,180	10,395	10,388
105	Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	7,045	6,849	6,479	6,537
106	Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	25,265	26,153	26,003	27,295
107	Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	27,590	27,687	27,495	28,058
108	Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	5,886	5,830	5,866	6,111
109	Rochdale Bank	5,590	3,203	3,040	2,930	2,856
110	Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	6,589	6,181	6,469	6,486
111	Royston Bank	16,393	14,101	13,886	13,585	13,030
112	Rugby Bank	17,250	10,036	9,488	10,536	9,564
113	Rye Bank	29,864	10,810	10,722	9,675	9,760
114	Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire	4,420	3,680	4,160	3,811	3,879
115	Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	27,406	27,129	26,217	25,502

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTE.

PRIVATE BANKS.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. April 17.	April 24.	May 1.	May 8.
		£	£	£	£	£
1	Andover Bank	17,751	9,138	9,178	9,376	9,275
2	Ashford Bank	11,849	11,145	11,384	10,568	11,281
3	Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	20,783	21,201	20,809	20,757
4	Baldock and Biggleswade Bank	37,223	27,424	26,456	25,326	24,509
5	Barnstaple Bank	17,182	8,687	8,647	8,493	7,985
6	Basingstoke and Odiham Bank	24,730	21,555	21,155	21,703	21,381
7	Bedford Bank	34,218	34,307	34,114	31,960	32,594
8	Bewdley Bank	18,597	9,143	9,840	9,883	9,132
9	Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank	27,090	14,562	14,437	13,455	13,741
10	BirminghamBank—Attwoods&Co.	23,695	22,063	21,108	20,779	20,865
11	Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	68,394	66,597	70,486	82,920
12	Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	13,659	14,798	14,322	14,779
13	Bridgewater Bank	10,028	7,226	7,342	7,857	8,318
14	Bristol Bank	48,277	31,358	31,079	30,512	30,865
15	Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank	26,717	15,136	15,340	15,491	16,164
16	Buckingham Bank	29,557	24,593	24,767	23,071	23,403
17	Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	58,660	58,696	55,993	56,431
18	Banbury Bank	43,457	31,502	31,376	30,890	29,477
19	Banbury Old Bank	55,153	26,661	27,618	27,564	26,190
20	Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	37,421	35,278	34,878	34,655
21	Birmingham Bk.—Lloyds & Co.	38,816	25,085	23,297	22,495	22,754
22	Bradford Old Bank	12,676	12,036	11,284	12,543	12,952
23	Brecon Old Bank	68,271	37,589	34,618	34,290	37,557
24	Brighton Union Bank	33,794	17,475	17,110	16,727	16,891
25	Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	11,068	11,271	11,902	11,496
26	Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,507	2,320	2,360	2,245
27	Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	12,455	12,947	12,932	12,640
28	Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	43,367	42,151	42,440	42,759
29	Canterbury Bank	33,671	30,967	31,318	30,246	28,782
30	Carmarthen Bank	23,597	15,648	15,316	15,655	16,044
31	Chertsey Bank	3,436	2,460	2,550	2,800	3,065
32	Colchester Bank	25,082	16 539	16,257	16,591	16,961
33	Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	34,916	34,448	35,545	35,345
34	Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co.	49,869	39,173	37,435	37,484	38,170
35	Coventry Bank	12,045	5,304	5,130	5,569	5,457
36	City Bank, Exeter	21,527	18,425	18,985	19,588	19,493
37	Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co.	77,154	69,167	72,303	75,521	75,129
38	Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	8,076	8,125	8,500	8,375
39	Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	13,468	12,632	12,003	11,817
40	Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	39,744	38,440	38,018	38,943
41	Derby Old Bank	27,237	27,605	26,146	26,931	27,219
42	Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	7,639	7,930	7,570	7,991
43	Diss Bank	10,657	10,220	9,445	9,485	9,372
44	Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	57,765	56,919	55,625	56,435
45	Darlington Bank	86,218	83,400	85,280	86,114	87,166
46	Devonport Bank	10,664	8,939	8,841	8,651	7,874
47	Dorchester Old Bank	48 807	43,875	42,715	41,913	41,477
48	East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	79,479	77,829	78,349	75,408
59	East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	51,070	50,934	51,708	49,963
50	Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	39,635	38,364	37,280	37,450
51	Exeter Bank	37,894	26,449	25,471	25,291	25,610
52	Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	6,482	6,799	6,563	6,258
53	Farnham Bank	14.202	9,778	10,452	10,266	10,211
54	Faversham Bank	6,681	6,170	6,039	5,926	5,879
55	Godalming Bank	6,322	4,813	4,888	5,292	5,750
56	Guildford Bank	14,524	13,447	13,335	13,105	14,924
57	Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	29,746	29,962	28,672	29,498

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. April 17.	April 24.	May 1.	May 8.
		£	£	£	£	£
58	Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	13,096	12,500	12,588	12,775
59	Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	23,194	22,256	18,986	15,383
60	Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	44,155	43,775	43,964	44,954
61	Harwich Bank	5,778	3,824	3,967	3,760	3,991
62	Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	32,397	33,962	33,614	34,401
63	Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	18,991	17,436	17,643	18,506
64	Ipswich Bank	21,901	20,408	19,720	19,490	19,802
65	Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	60,663	59,256	57,450	56,456
66	Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	9,515	9,567	9,445	9,210
67	Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	21,833	21,013	20,139	20,532
68	Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	18,731	19,025	19,925	19,929
69	Kendal Bank	44,663	44,410	45,539	45,553	43,128
70	Longton Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,214	5,100	5,197	5,225
71	Leeds Bank	53,357	55,180	55,608	53,191	48,713
72	Leeds Union Bank	37,459	36,823	36,607	36,686	36,728
73	Leicester Bank	32,322	26,993	27,168	28,186	29,014
74	Lewes Old Bank	44,836	22,495	21,750	20,618	20,760
75	Lincoln Bank	100,342	80,935	82,514	88,066	87,625
76	Llandovery Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	20,028	19,330	19,964	24,824
77	Loughborough Bank	7,359	6,488	6,735	7,283	7,350
78	Lymington Bank	5,038	4,116	3,735	3,701	3,648
89	Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	33,952	33,390	34,240	32,475
80	Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	10,792	11,818	11,900	12,730
81	Macclesfield Bank	15,760	13,765	13,729	14,555	14,608
82	Manningtree Bank	7,692	2,564	2,060	1,807	1,935
83	Merionethshire Bank	10,906	6,228	6,939	6,756	6,415
84	Miners' Bank	18,688	12,177	12,276	12,592	13,483
85	Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	27,449	26,937	27,212	29,492
86	Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	11,412	10,897	10,620	11,910
87	Newark Bank	28,788	20,730	20,638	21,130	21,076
88	Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	49,855	49,749	49,617	49,229
89	Newbury Bank	36,787	18,114	18,462	19,316	19,086
90	Newmarket Bank	23,098	16,443	18,177	18,379	17,061
91	Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	48,650	47,620	46,720	47,080
92	Norwich and Norfolk Bank	105,519	94,344	93,452	93,945	93,441
93	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	10,866	9,095	8,533	8,516	8,573
94	Nuneaton Bank	5,898	2,730	2,826	2,866	2,710
95	Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	20,165	20,888	21,000	20,694
96	New Sarum Bank.—Everett and Pinckneys	15,659	8,894	8,865	8,613	8,439
97	Nottingham Bank	31,047	31,051	29,870	29,730	32,412
98	Oswestry Bank	18,471	8,757	8,630	8,748	10,542
99	Oxford Old Bank	34,391	32,250	32,988	33,313	34,705
100	Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	7,484	7,489	7,142	7,235
101	Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	9,751	9,547	9,427	8,917
102	Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	43,590	43,540	42,634	43,091
103	Penzance Bank	11,405	6,910	6,709	6,985	6,930
104	Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	9,998	10,180	10,395	10,388
105	Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	7,045	6,849	6,479	6,537
106	Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	25,265	26,153	26,003	27,295
107	Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	27,590	27,687	27,495	28,058
108	Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	5,886	5,830	5,866	6,111
109	Rochdale Bank	5,590	3,203	3,040	2,930	2,856
110	Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	6,589	6,181	6,469	6,486
111	Royston Bank	16,393	14,101	13,886	13,585	13,010
112	Rugby Bank	17,250	10,036	9,488	10,536	9,564
113	Rye Bank	29,864	10,810	10,722	9,675	9,760
114	Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire	4,420	3,680	4,160	3,811	3,879
115	Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	27,406	27,129	26,217	25,502

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. April 17.	April 24	May 1.	May 8.
		£	£	£	£	£
116	Salop Bank	22,338	12,785	13,640	13,699	13,323
117	Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	23,480	23,195	22,985	22,765
118	Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	35,752	32,799	34,025	36,820
119	Sittingbourne and Milton Bank	4,789	2,288	2,485	2,741	2,929
120	Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	11,582	11,215	10,373	10,183
121	Southwell Bank	14,744	10,833	11,008	11,013	10,928
122	Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	2,880	2,884	2,966	2,954
123	Stafford Old Bank	14,166	13,790	12,822	13,142	12,511
124	Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	27,146	27,656	26,496	27,122
125	Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	23,045	24,195	23,655	22,526
126	Taunton Bank	29,799	23,081	22,652	22,484	22,417
127	Tavistock Bank	13,421	9,080	8,690	8,383	8,468
128	Thornbury Bank	10,026	10,250	10,455	9,295	8,635
129	Tiverton and Devonshire Bank	13,470	10,460	11,219	11,769	11,108
130	Thrapstone and Kettering Bank	11,559	12,016	11,335	11,400	10,828
131	Tring Bank and Chesham Bank	13,531	13,701	13,186	13,277	13,340
132	Towcester Old Bank	10,801	6,525	6,184	5,931	6,766
133	Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	8,852	9,106	8,794	9,175
134	Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	14,334	13,173	14,355	14,739
135	Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	11,600	10,973	10,770	11,509
136	Wallingford Bank	17,064	6,168	6,086	5,965	6,269
137	Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	22,121	21,888	21,035	20,662
138	Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	2,246	2,283	2,138	2,001
139	West Riding Bank	46,158	40,478	38,405	37,099	37,313
140	Whitby Old Bank	14,258	13,273	12,646	12,603	12,756
141	Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	16,407	16,116	16,410	16,250
142	Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	12,922	12,585	12,490	12,697
143	Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	36,005	34,503	34,969	35,407
144	Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	48,430	47,612	47,422	46,139
145	Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	5,950	6,116	6,152	6,420
146	Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	7,752	7,620	7,190	6,977
147	Worcester Old Bank	87,448	53,865	55,586	54,541	53,551
148	Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	8,052	8,255	8,763	8,774
149	Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	39,470	37,996	37,765	38,237
150	Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	10,770	10,672	10,448	10,392
151	York Bank	46,387	39,185	39,866	40,707	40,530

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1	Bank of Westmoreland	12,225	9,713	9,320	9,477	9,927
2	Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	8,177	8,173	7,913	8,150
3	Bradford Banking Company	49,292	45,495	45,819	45,630	47,744
4	Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	9,149	8,412	7,561	8,455
5	Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	27,425	27,682	27,698	29,346
6	Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	18,114	18,602	18,198	18,643
7	Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	50,396	49,072	50,955	52,711

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. April 17.	April 24.	May 1.	May 8.
		£	£	£	£	£
8	Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	10,102	10,178	10,307	10,297
9	Cumberland Union Banking Co ...	35,395	34,560	37,466	33,140	32,955
10	Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	22,750	22,374	22,412	23,544
11	Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	13,725	14,253	14,844	14,753
12	County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	107,491	106,635	105,113	104,667
13	Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	22,097	23,517	24,595	24,228
14	Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	20,148	20,750	19,433	19,332
15	Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	26,200	27,949	29,192	29,652
16	Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	19,700	18,822	19,435	20,805
17	Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	16,635	17,115	17,899	20,124
18	East of England Bank	25,025	23,976	24,113	24,740	24,388
19	Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	130,970	132,192	132,306	130,884
20	Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	18,630	18,614	18,433	17,964
21	Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	31,413	33,412	32,358	32,160
22	Hull Banking Company	29,333	22,587	22,451	22,757	24,228
23	Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	8,598	9,048	9,497	9,689
24	Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	37,320	36,893	35,758	36,814
25	Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,452	1,544	1,521	1,398
26	Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	14,930	15,791	17,075	18,480
27	Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	25,030	24,770	25,185	25,324
28	Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	2,824	2,846	2,524	2,217
29	Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	59,849	59,538	62,644	67,168
30	Leeds Banking Company	23,076	22,865	22,840	23,143	23,233
31	Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	73,391	74,082	74,572	73,044
32	Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co..	51,620	54,430	49,839	45,210	48,329
33	Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank	13,875	9,645	9,170	9,107	10,888
34	Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	9,185	10,070	9,986	9,932
35	Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	28,233	28,276	29,763	28,332
36	Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	28,265	28,303	28,219	27,603
37	National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	424,372	423,613	430,390	432,324
38	North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	43,075	42,681	42,856	40,625
39	Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	81,009	77,123	76,661	77,317
40	Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	19,885	19,142	19,443	19,910
41	North and South Wales Bank.....	63,951	49,695	50,418	51,624	53,686
42	Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	50,121	51,403	52,449	51,809
43	Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	1,553	1,591	1,922	1,977
44	Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	35,366	35,421	35,256	36,885
45	Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	50,992	51,576	50,860	53,273
46	Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	342,648	340,013	332,763	333,595
47	Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	32,966	33,641	32,545	33,834
48	Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	53,425	53,617	54,986	54,079
49	Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	22,128	22,396	23,305	23,764
50	Sheffield & Rotherham Jt Stock Bk.	52,496	53,501	51,921	52,005	51,591
51	Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	51,595	52,413	51,997	52,753
52	Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	13,110	11,947	12,510	14,552
53	Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	13,874	14,015	13,680	13,434
54	Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	23,373	24,700	25,819	25,981
55	Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	26,909	26,434	25,912	26,057
56	West of England and South Wales District Bank.....	83,535	64,773	64,756	64,307	65,532
57	Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	75,621	72,411	71,879	72,597
58	West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	33,041	31,621	30,615	30,795
59	Whitchurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	3,640	3,532	3,591	3,540
60	Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	5,724	5,814	5,615	6,020
61	York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	67,777	68,121	68,997	68,275
62	York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	83,726	84,300	84,473	83,822
63	Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	126,667	123,958	120,174	111,930

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	April 17.	Ap 24.	May 1.	May 8.
151 Private Banks.....	£4,404,935	£3,370,822	£3,340,701	£3,331,189	£3,350,806
63 Joint-Stock Banks..	3,302,357	2,915,956	2,908,509	2,905,234	2,927,002
214 Totals	7,707,292	6,286,778	6,249,210	6,236,423	6,277,808

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending May 8th:—

Private Banks	£3,348,379
Joint-Stock Banks	2,914,175
Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above	£6,262,554

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the month ending 10th April last, it shows:—

An *increase* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£138,801
An *increase* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	164,796
Total *increase* on the month.....	£303,597

And, as compared with the month ending May 9th, 1857, it shows—

A *decrease* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£483,023
A *decrease* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	258,540
Total *decrease*, as compared with the same period of last year	£741,563

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	£1,056,556
The Joint-Stock Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	388,182
Total BELOW the fixed issues	£1,444,738

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH *and* SCOTCH BANKS *during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 8th day of May*, 1858.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt. of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland	3,738,428	2,058,875	1,293,150	3,352,025	763,988
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	394,619	506,390	901,009	427,425
Belfast Bank	281,611	70,823	287,943	358,766	264,504
Northern Bank	243,440	42,407	209,374	251,782	170,378
Ulster Bank	311,079	72,640	291,746	364,386	148,755
The National Bank	852,269	552,791	481,967	1,034,759	514,211
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	3,192,155	3,070,570	6,262,727	2,289,261

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	140,397	284,411	424,808	236,525
Royal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	139,668	235,602	375,271	315,949
British Linen Company	438,024	171,473	285,130	456,603	334,092
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	156,690	292,742	449,432	232,318
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	131,802	242,121	373,924	218,022
Union Bank of Scotland and BankingCom. in Aberdeen	454,346	175,917	344,196	520,113	154,976
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	60,954	75,215	136,169	45,633
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	49,022	65,643	114,665	61,511
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	91,987	94,009	185,996	66,721
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	12,581	24,667	37,254	38,624
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	13,147	21,598	34,745	19,664
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	44,075	16,053	60,128	2,098
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	71,947	130,222	202,170	148,469
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	100,072	130,067	230,139	209,643
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	19,260	41,417	60,677	35,631
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	18,931	31,653	50,584	28,735
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,397,929	2,314,746	3,712,678	2,148,611

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO MAY 8, 18

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 8th May, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz.:—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks..	£6,262,727
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks	3,712,678
Total Average Circulation of these Banks for the past month	£9,975,405

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 10th April last, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£27,949
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	101,286
Total increase on the month	£129,235

And, as compared with the month ending May 9th, 1857, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£892,457
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	220,156
Total decrease on the year.....	£1,112,613

The fixed issues of the Irish an Banks at the present time are giv *Banking Almanac*, as follows:—

6 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue..	
16 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue ..	
22 Banks in all, allowed to issue.....	

The following appears, therefore, t comparative state of the circulation:—

Irish Banks are below their fixed issue ..	
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue	
Total above the fixed issue	

The amounts of Gold and Silver he head offices of the several banks, du past month, have been as follows:—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks	£
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks	
Total of Gold and Silver Coin	£

Being an increase of £187,703 on the the Irish Banks, and a decrease of £ on the part of the Scotch Banks, several amounts held by them dur preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO MAY 8, 1858

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, month ending the 8th May, 1858:—

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending 8th May, as compared with the previous month:—

	April 10.	May 8.	Increase.	Dec
Bank of England (month ending May 5)	£19,653,499	£20,496,079	£842,580	
Private Banks	3,209,578	3,348,379	138,801	
Joint-Stock Banks	2,749,379	2,914,175	164,796	
Total in England	25,612,456	26,758,633	1,146,177	
Scotland.....	3,611,392	3,712,678	101,286	
Ireland.....	6,234,778	6,262,727	27,949	
United Kingdom.....	£35,458,626	£36,734,038	£1,275,412	

The comparison of the month ending May 9th, 1857, with the month May 8th, 1858, shows an *increase* in the Bank of England circulation of £8 a *decrease* in Private Banks of £483,023, and a *decrease* in Joint-Stock Ba £258,540; being a total *increase* in England of £94,211; while in Scotland the *decrease* of £220,156; and in Ireland a *decrease* of £892,457. Thus showing th month ending 8th May, as compared with the same period last year, prese *increase* of £94,211 in *England*, and a *decrease* of £1,018,402 in the *United Kingdo*

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending Ma gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £18,461,234. On a compari this with the Return for the month ending April 7th, there appears to be an i of £57,163; and an *increase* of £8,829,250 as compared with the same period last y

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the ending 8th May, was £4,437,872; being an *increase* of £29,849 as compare the return of the previous month, and an *increase* of £352,025 as compared w corresponding period last year.

Waterlow and Sons, Printers, Carpenters' Hall, London Wall.

	26	27	28	29	31	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9
Bank Stock, div. 5½ p.c. ½-year	222	219	219½	221	219	220	221	219½	221	..	219	221	221
3 per Ct. Red. Anns.	96¼	96⅛	96⅝	96⅝	96⅝	96⅝	96¼	96	97⅞	96⅝	96⅞	95¾	96
3 per ct. Consols Anns.	98	98	97⅛	97⅜	97⅛	97⅛	97⅞	97⅞	97⅞	..	95⅞	95⅞	97
New 3 per cent. Anns.	96⅞	96⅞	96⅞	96⅞	96⅞	96⅞	96⅞	96¼	96¼	96	95⅝	95⅛	96
New 3½ per cent.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New 2½ per cent.	..	..	..	..	81	81¾	..	81	81	..	..	..	..
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	..	..	..	..	..	1⅝	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1880	..	14¼	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Apl. 5, 1885	..	18⅞	..	..	18½	..	..	..	18⅞	..	..	..	..
India Stock (div. 10½ percent.	222	..	224	224	223	223½	222	221	..	..	..	222	222
Ditto Loan Debentures	par	99¼	99⅛	99⅛	99¼	99½	99⅞	99⅞	99	..	99	99¼	99¼
Ditto Ditto Scrip	par	99⅛	99⅞	99¾	99	..	99⅞	99¼	99¼	..	99⅛	..	..
Do. Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)	22sp	23sp	..	..	..	17sp	..	21sp	18sp	..	17sp	..	..
Ditto, under £500	..	24sp	..	..	22sp	..	21sp	..	..	..	..	17sp	..
Bank stock for ac. 3rd June	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 3rd June	97⅞	98	97⅛	97⅞	97⅝	97⅞	97⅛	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto for account 8th July	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	97⅞	97⅞	95⅞	95⅛	95¾	95¾
Ex. Bills £1000, 2½d. *per diem*	41sp	33sp	37sp	36sp	35sp	35sp	35sp	35sp	36sp	36sp	32sp	35sp	32sp
Ditto. £500 do.	..	37sp	35sp	..	..	35sp	35sp	36sp	..	..	36sp	36sp	..
Ditto. Small do.	41sp	33sp	..	..	35sp	35sp	31sp	..	..	37sp	36sp	37sp	32sp
Ditto Advertised 1½d.	20sp	17sp	15sp	18sp	18sp	13sp	13sp	19sp	14sp	14sp	..	..	..
Ditto B 1859	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	101	100¾	100⅞	100¾	..
Ditto under £1000	..	101⅛	..	..	..	101⅞	..	100⅞	..	101	..	100⅛	100⅛

	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	22	23	24	25	26	28	29
Bank Stock, div. 5½ p.c. ½-year	219½	221	..	219¾	219½	221	221	221	221	..	..	220½	222	221½	..	220	221½
3 per Ct. Red. Anns.	96	96¼	96¼	96⅛	96⅛	95⅞	96	95¾	95⅞	95⅝	96	95½	96	95⅞	95⅞	96	95⅞
3 per ct. Consols Anns.	97	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
New 3 per cent. Anns.	..	96	96	96¼	96¼	95¾	95⅛	95⅞	95⅞	95¾	..	95⅛	95½	95¼	96	95⅜	95⅜
New 3½ per cent.	..	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
New 2½ per cent.	..	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1⅝	1⅝	..	1⅝	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1⅞	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	..	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1880	..	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut
Ditto 30 years, Apl. 5, 1885	..	..	..	18¾	..	18¼	18⅛	..	..	..	18½	18⅞	..	..	..	..	..
India Stock (div. 10½ percent.	..	shut	shut	..	shut	shut	..	shut	shut	..	shut	shut	..	shut	shut	..	shut
Ditto Loan Debentures	99¼	99⅞	99¼	..	99⅞	..	99⅞	99⅞	..	..	99⅛	99½	99⅝	99¾	99⅛	99⅞	99½
Ditto Ditto Scrip	..	..	..	..	99¼	..	99⅛	99¼	99⅞	..	..	..	..	99¾	99⅞	..	99¾
Do. Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)	17sp	..	..	..	..	..	21sp	..	16sp	17sp	21sp	..	..	17sp	17sp	16sp	..
Ditto, under £500	..	21sp	15sp	..	..	..	..	..	20sp	..	17sp	..	17sp	21sp	..	..	16sp
Bank stock for ac. 3rd June	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 3rd June	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto for account 8th July	95⅞	96	96⅛	96	96	96⅛	95⅞	95¾	95⅞	95⅜	95⅞	95⅞	95⅝	95¾	95⅞	95⅜	95⅜
Ex. Bills £1000, 2½d. *per diem*	..	..	36sp	36sp	36sp	21sp	17sp	..	20sp	22sp	18sp	22sp	19sp	22sp	21sp	23sp	22sp
Ditto. £500 do.	35sp	36sp	36sp	..	32sp	16sp	21sp	21sp	20sp	22sp	18sp	22sp	..	24sp	..	..	20sp
Ditto. Small do.	36sp	36sp	..	..	32sp	..	21sp	20sp	..	22sp	..	22sp	23sp	23sp	20sp	..	23sp
Ditto Advertised 1½d.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto B 1859	100¾	..	..	100⅛	101	..	101	..	..	..	..	..	101⅛	101⅛	101	101	..
Ditto under £1000	..	100⅞	..	100⅞	..	100⅛	..	..	100¾	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

				London Latest Prices.
Australasia	£40 sh.,	£40	0 pd.	£81½
British North American	50	50	0	55½
Bank of London	100	50	0	46
Commercial of London	100	20	0	19½
Colonial	100	25	0	27
City Bank	100	50	0	58½
London and Westminster	100	20	0	45½
London Joint Stock	50	10	0	30½
Oriental Bank	25	25	0	35
Provincial of Ireland	100	25	0	64
National Bank	50	25	0	40
National Provincial of England	150	35	0	79
South Australian	25	25	0	30½
Union of Australia	25	25	0	50
Union of London	50	10	0	24
London and County	50	20	0	27½
London Chartered of Australia	20	20	0	19
Bk. of India, & Austra. Chartrd.	20	20	0	18
New South Wales	20	20	0	44
Bank of Egypt	25	25	0	21½
Ottoman Bank	20	20	0	15½

FOREIGN STOCKS (*26th June.*)

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	102¾
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	104½
Danish 5 per Cent.	103
Mexican 3 per Cent.	20¼
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	87
Portuguese Bonds, 3 per Cent.	46⅛
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 per Cent. in £ Ster.	112¼
Ditto, 4½ per cent.	101¼
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cents.	45¼
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	27⅛
Turkish 6 per Cent.	95⅛
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Dutch 2½ per Cent.	66⅜
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	100¼
French 4½ per Cent., at Paris, June 26,	94f. 10c.
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	68f. 25c.

RAILWAY SHARES.

Company.	Paid up £	Prices May 27.	Prices June 26.
Caledonian	100	84	75½
Eastern Counties	100	61½	60½
Great Northern	100	103½	100
Great Western	100	55½	49⅞
London and Blackwall	13½	6½	6
London and Brighton	100	108	108
——— North-West.	100	93½	89⅞
——— South-West.	100	95	92½
Midland	100	92½	91½
South-Eastern	100	69½	67½
York, Newcsle. & Berwick	100	92	89½
York & North Midland	100	72½	69½

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows:—

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1858. May 19th.	1858. May 26th	1858. June 2nd.	1858. June 9th.
	£	£	£	£
Notes issued.....	31,634,700	31,842,755	31,959,215	31,724,685
Government debentures.....	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900
Gold coin and bullion	17,159,700	17,367,755	17,484,215	17,249,685
Silver bullion	—	—	—	—
	31,634,700	31,842,755	31,959,215	31,724,685

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1858. May 19th.	1858. May 26th.	1858. June 2nd.	1858. June 9th.
	£	£	£	£
Proprietors' capital.....	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000
Rest	3,210,632	3,216,099	3,156,942	3,158,502
Public deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	4,735,910	4,931,130	5,013,744	5,648,580
Other deposits.....	13,972,358	13,967,923	14,365,512	13,734,354
Seven day and other bills.....	850,425	813,911	771,912	795,758
	37,322,320	37,502,053	37,861,110	37,910,164
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuities)	10,526,563	10,526,563	10,526,563	10,578,644
Other securities	14,676,707	14,579,458	14,784,528	14,626,191
Notes.....	11,351,770	11,661,385	11,830,435	11,934,070
Gold and silver coin	767,280	744,647	719,584	771,259
	37,322,320	37,502,053	37,861,110	37,910,164

The Exchanges.

	May 7th.	May 14th.	May 21st.	May 28th.
Amsterdam, short ..	11 14⅝	11 14½	11 15½	11 15½
Ditto 3 months..	11 17½	11 17½	11 17⅝	11 17⅝
Rotterdam, ditto ..	11 17½	11 17½	11 17⅝	11 17⅝
Antwerp, ditto ..	25 32½	25 32½	25 35	25 32½
Brussels, ditto.....	25 32½	25 32½	25 35	25 32½
Hamburgh, ditto....	13 7	13 6⅝	13 7½	13 7½
Paris, short	25 7½	25 12½	25 10	25 10
Paris, 3 months	25 32½	25 32½	25 32½	25 32½
Marseilles, ditto	25 35	25 32½	25 32½	25 32½
Frankfort, ditto	118⅝	118⅝	118⅝	118⅜
Vienna, ditto.....	10 34	10 33	10 30	10 30
Trieste, ditto.....	10 34	10 34	10 33	10 31
Petersburgh, ditto ..	35½	35½	35½	35½
Madrid, ditto	49	49	49½	49½
Cadiz, ditto	49⅝	49½	49⅝	49⅝
Leghorn, ditto.....	29 60½	29 65	29 60	29 57½
Genoa, ditto.....	25 52½	25 55	25 55	25 50
Naples, ditto.....	41⅛	41⅛	42	41⅛
Palermo, ditto	125½	125½	125½	125½
Messina, ditto	125½	125½	125½	125½
Lisbon, ditto	51⅛	51⅛	51⅛	51⅛
Oporto, ditto	51⅛	51⅛	51⅛	51⅛
Rio Janeiro 60 dys.'dte	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.	Per Ounce.
Foreign Gold in Bars ..	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9	£3 17 9
(Standard)				
Mexican Dollars	0 0 0	0 5 0½	0 0 0	0 0 0
Silver in Bars (Stand.)..	0 5 1½	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 5 1½

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
			May 15.	May 22.	May 29.	June 5.
		£	£	£	£	£
1	Andover Bank	17,751	8,820	8,929	8,980	9,088
2	Ashford Bank	11,849	10,523	11,645	10,378	11,240
3	Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	21,557	21,039	21,610	21,532
4	Baldock and Biggleswade Bank	37,223	24,930	24,754	25,599	25,723
5	Barnstaple Bank	17,182	8,596	8,470	8,163	7,620
6	Basingstoke and Odiham Bank	24,730	20,836	21,239	21,384	21,440
7	Bedford Bank	34,218	32,652	32,476	32,744	32,457
8	Bewdley Bank	18,597	9,382	9,041	9,208	8,658
9	Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank	27,090	15,028	14,800	14,107	14,702
10	Birmingham Bank—Attwoods&Co.	23,695	21,858	22,365	22,044	21,358
11	Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	88,176	75,810	65,955	62,373
12	Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	14,768	13,767	13,668	15,235
13	Bridgewater Bank	10,028	8,220	8,178	8,497	8,373
14	Bristol Bank	48,277	30,344	29,555	30,346	31,415
15	Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank	26,717	15,302	14,929	14,270	14,250
16	Buckingham Bank	29,557	22,980	22,308	22,723	22,798
17	Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	56,374	54,736	57,232	59,490
18	Banbury Bank	43,457	28,907	29,090	29,267	28,590
19	Banbury Old Bank	55,153	25,877	26,328	26,185	25,705
20	Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,819	36,239	35,784	37,266	35,704
21	Birmingham Bk.—Lloyds & Co.	38,816	22,455	22,082	22,435	22,380
22	Bradford Old Bank	12,676	12,504	12,142	11,626	11,492
23	Brecon Old Bank	68,271	36,847	37,068	35,277	37,361
24	Brighton Union Bank	33,794	16,380	15,785	15,826	16,560
25	Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	10,562	10,552	9,989	9,861
26	Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	1,915	1,950	2,154	2,023
27	Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	12,233	12,004	11,940	12,259
28	Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	43,824	43,779	45,223	43,979
29	Canterbury Bank	33,671	27,736	26,817	26,185	26,615
30	Carmarthen Bank	23,597	16,585	17,379	17,957	18,055
31	Chertsey Bank	3,436	3,085	3,586	3,036	2,878
32	Colchester Bank	25,082	17,445	16,509	16,079	16,705
33	Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	33,172	32,380	32,505	31,993
34	Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co.	49,869	37,786	37,589	36,670	36,815
35	Coventry Bank	12,045	4,973	4,861	5,080	5,228
36	City Bank, Exeter	21,527	18,977	18,442	17,838	17,720
37	Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co.	77,154	75,790	74,186	70,476	66,589
38	Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	8,528	8,413	8,160	8,915
39	Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	11,723	11,848	11,304	10,794
40	Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	37,493	37,011	36,725	33,397
41	Derby Old Bank	27,237	25,642	25,923	26,865	26,559
42	Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	7,707	7,581	7,290	7,107
43	Diss Bank	10,657	10,373	10,600	10,206	10,545
44	Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	56,163	54,901	52,753	51,481
45	Darlington Bank	86,218	89,374	88,213	84,625	80,350
46	Devonport Bank	10,664	7,507	8,073	7,808	7,365
47	Dorchester Old Bank	48 807	41,635	42,323	41,760	41,055
48	East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	75,863	77,582	77,912	78,107
59	East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	50,875	50,918	52,096	51,099
50	Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	36,905	36,689	37,295	37,815
51	Exeter Bank	37,894	25,671	26,113	25,375	24,916
52	Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	6,550	6,497	6,299	6,883
53	Farnham Bank	14,202	10,503	10,354	9,483	9,325
54	Faversham Bank	6,681	5,714	5,592	5,705	5,877
55	Godalming Bank	6,322	5,404	5,175	4,898	5,341
56	Guildford Bank	14,524	14,703	14,447	14,257	13,802
57	Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,375	31,083	30,320	28,287	27,035

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
			May 15.	May 22.	May 29.	June 5.
		£	£	£	£	£
58	Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	12,783	12,879	11,932	11,494
59	Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	16,343	16,878	16,957	17,224
60	Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	44,975	44,948	45,755	45,566
61	Harwich Bank	5,778	4,156	4,003	4,097	4,261
62	Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	36,094	34,485	34,857	34,446
63	Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	19,105	19,629	18,745	18,147
64	Ipswich Bank	21,901	19,360	19,329	18,545	18,810
65	Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	55,820	57,148	57,457	58,907
66	Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co.	19,895	9,385	9,470	9,117	8,771
67	Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	21,039	19,922	20,658	20,551
68	Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	20,379	20,379	20,134	19,656
69	Kendal Bank	44,663	43,976	44,055	44,792	43,541
70	Longton Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,307	5,253	5,215	5,273
71	Leeds Bank	53,357	52,047	54,457	52,255	49,489
72	Leeds Union Bank	37,459	36,665	36,613	36,424	36,116
73	Leicester Bank	32,322	30,322	30,706	29,196	28,447
74	Lewes Old Bank	44,836	20,915	20,586	20,055	19,814
75	Lincoln Bank	100,342	94,595	91,610	85,437	81,055
76	Llandovery Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	28,798	27,665	28,648	27,169
77	Loughborough Bank	7,359	7,420	7,138	6,921	7,065
78	Lymington Bank	5,038	3,750	3,835	3,875	3,885
89	Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	32,902	31,903	31,441	31,271
80	Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank	13,917	10,944	10,501	9,791	9,865
81	Macclesfield Bank	15,760	14,121	14,262	13,747	14,046
82	Manningtree Bank	7,692	2,041	2,332	2,863	2,763
83	Merionethshire Bank	10,906	9,635	9,666	9,189	10,037
84	Miners' Bank	18,688	13,280	12,917	13,746	14,660
85	Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	30,572	29,760	26,590	26,110
86	Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	11,670	11,576	11,559	11,410
87	Newark Bank	28,788	21,609	21,200	20,600	19,792
88	Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	53,113	52,480	48,415	48,084
89	Newbury Bank	36,787	18,968	19,403	19,195	19,355
90	Newmarket Bank	23,098	17,092	16,905	16,107	15,402
91	Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	47,377	47,470	46,780	47,309
92	Norwich and Norfolk Bank	105,519	93,184	93,317	93,447	95,785
93	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire	10,866	7,905	8,111	9,108	8,822
94	Nuneaton Bank	5,898	2,845	2,881	2,865	2,635
95	Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	19,939	19,405	19,865	19,791
96	New Sarum Bank.—Everett and Pinckneys	15,659	8,773	8,992	9,317	9,054
97	Nottingham Bank	31,047	31,520	31,300	29,515	29,110
98	Oswestry Bank	18,471	10,609	10,560	10,781	10,750
99	Oxford Old Bank	34,391	34,165	34,044	33,940	33,913
100	Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	6,966	7,050	6,490	6,200
101	Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	9,447	9,940	10,454	10,074
102	Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	44,211	43,587	42,486	42,659
103	Penzance Bank	11,405	6,690	6,760	6,997	7,285
104	Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	10,178	9,912	10,320	10,118
105	Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	7,303	7,393	7,066	7,943
106	Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	27,453	27,989	28,136	27,592
107	Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	28,082	27,534	27,799	27,322
108	Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	6,645	6,962	6,595	6,601
109	Rochdale Bank	5,590	2,885	3,085	2,766	2,736
110	Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	6,411	5,688	5,348	5,735
111	Royston Bank	16,393	12,595	12,327	13,099	13,282
112	Rugby Bank	17,250	9,467	9,465	9,172	9,583
113	Rye Bank	29,864	9,534	9,350	8,650	8,710
114	Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire	4,420	4,238	4,090	4,275	4,225
115	Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	24,965	24,518	25,087	24,555

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. May 15.	May 22.	May 29	June 5.
		£	£	£	£	£
116	Salop Bank	22,338	13,972	14,107	13,851	13,318
117	Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	22,457	21,957	21,366	20,489
118	Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	36,246	34,583	32,938	31,995
119	Sittingbourne and Milton Bank.	4,789	2,883	2,722	2,564	2,616
120	Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	10,539	10,630	12,036	10,653
121	Southwell Bank	14,744	11,218	11,390	11,436	11,298
122	Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,77c	2,911	2,806	2,665	2,579
123	Stafford Old Bank	14,166	12,260	11,254	11,122	10,922
124	Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	27,475	26,499	25,475	23,817
125	Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	21,937	22,341	21,646	21,705
126	Taunton Bank	29,799	22,266	21,692	22,694	22,536
127	Tavistock Bank	13,421	8,189	7,809	7,047	7,061
128	Thornbury Bank	10,026	9,160	9,364	9,205	9,693
129	Tiverton and Devonshire Bank	13,470	9,963	9,499	8,973	8,119
130	Thrapstone and Kettering Bank.	11,559	10,912	11,035	11,085	11,556
131	Tring Bank and Chesham Bank.	13,531	13,289	13,706	13,718	13,187
132	Towcester Old Bank	10,801	7,386	7,603	7,559	7,306
133	Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	8,934	8,612	8,547	8,065
134	Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	12,765	11,499	10,935	11,923
135	Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	11,524	10,840	11,220	11,255
136	Wallingford Bank	17,064	6,420	6,446	6,600	7,093
137	Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	21,230	20,630	19,796	19,712
138	Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	1,966	2,015	1,982	1,963
139	West Riding Bank	46,158	37,714	37,432	28,119	40,813
140	Whitby Old Bank	14,258	13,495	13,205	13,145	12,648
141	Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	15,802	15,253	15,645	15,515
142	Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	12,468	12,407	12,307	12,382
143	Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	35,340	34,478	35,172	34,826
144	Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	46,223	45,527	45,543	44,230
145	Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	7,131	6,650	5,759	5,059
146	Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	6,950	7,398	7,060	6,954
147	Worcester Old Bank	87,448	53,524	52,731	50,538	51,175
148	Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	8,376	8,126	7,531	7,027
149	Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	37,025	37,129	37,406	36,931
150	Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	11,015	10,105	10,062	9,834
151	York Bank	46,387	40,106	38,691	37,684	36,267

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1	Bank of Westmoreland	12,225	10,566	10,983	11,315	11,072
2	Barnsley Banking Company	9.563	8,207	8,325	8,310	8,302
3	Bradford Banking Company	49,292	47,195	48,217	46,665	46,976
4	Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	8,395	8,622	8,073	8,261
5	Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	29,144	29,514	29,527	28,630
6	Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	19,259	20,334	19,769	19,415
7	Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	49,729	48,797	47,531	45,375

WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. May 15.	May 22.	May 29.	June 5.
		£	£	£	£	£
8	Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	10,031	9,959	9,853	9,867
9	Cumberland Union Banking Co ..	35,395	34,590	35,793	35,726	33,556
10	Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	21,274	20,220	20,829	20,566
11	Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	13,871	13,115	12,703	12,240
12	County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	102,756	99,609	99,959	101,836
13	Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	24,989	25,773	25,886	24,925
14	Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	19,922	20,587	19,852	19,119
15	Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	29,120	29,213	29,494	28,169
16	Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	20,146	19,805	19,694	18,140
17	Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	23,236	23,813	21,800	20,426
18	East of England Bank	25,025	24,856	25,216	24,745	24,886
19	Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	133,153	130,711	127,190	127,655
20	Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	17,868	18,055	17,556	17,755
21	Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	34,270	34,900	32,787	31,706
22	Hull Banking Company	29,333	25,076	24,431	23,286	22,033
23	Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	9,648	9,863	9,946	9,331
24	Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	38,892	39,212	38,061	35,510
25	Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,445	1,525	1,500	1,441
26	Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	17,511	18,150	16,979	15,829
27	Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	25,611	25,875	26,680	25,663
28	Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	2,160	2,395	2,188	2,051
29	Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	65,358	64,133	63,421	60,247
30	Leeds Banking Company	23,076	23,893	22,549	23,192	22,279
31	Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	73,175	69,916	67,690	64,917
32	Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co..	51,620	55,821	51,991	43,687	40,939
33	Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank	13,875	10,625	9,664	9,195	8,664
34	Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	9,650	9,286	9,239	8,590
35	Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	26,453	27,341	30,095	28,372
36	Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	28,784	28,782	29,077	27,412
37	National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	428,701	434,025	423,030	413,365
38	North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	39,856	38,560	38,240	36,137
39	Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	76,029	72,975	72,405	72,745
40	Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	20,607	20,549	20,557	19,404
41	North and South Wales Bank	63,951	55,556	55,539	54,517	54,622
42	Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	54,290	52,427	49,968	47,495
43	Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	1,958	1,867	1,614	1,626
44	Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	35,897	33,776	35,470	34,276
45	Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	54,347	54,192	52,021	51,672
46	Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	326,937	321,383	314,921	310,595
47	Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	33,052	34,526	32,945	33,772
48	Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	53,918	52,219	52,605	52,650
49	Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	24,100	23,540	22,842	21,660
50	Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	52,416	52,275	52,744	50,917
51	Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	53,060	52,487	51,469	49,496
52	Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	15,443	16,219	16,305	18,099
53	Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	14,228	14,370	14,759	14,265
54	Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	25,720	25,660	26,615	25,781
55	Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	24,557	23,392	23,144	24,013
56	West of England and South Wales District Bank.....	83,535	64,622	63,493	61,377	58,892
57	Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	72,350	72,565	70,200	70,750
58	West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,019	32,248	31,205	30,648	30,335
59	Whitchurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	3,291	3,363	3,083	2,915
60	Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	6,252	5,701	5,188	5,260
61	York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	69,958	70,210	69,168	66,612
62	York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	82,735	82,293	82,375	81,280
63	Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	121,023	123,586	120,026	117,410

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	May 15.	May 22.	May 29.	June 5.
151 Private Banks.....	£4,404,935	£3,376,629	£3,334,720	£3,274,129	£3,250,025
63 Joint-Stock Banks..	3,302,357	2,939,830	2,919,070	2,862,422	2,797,959
214 Totals	7,707,292	6,316,459	6,253,790	6,136,551	6,047,984

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending June 5th :—

Private Banks	£3,308,876
Joint-Stock Banks	2,879,820
Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above	£6,188,696

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the month ending 8th May last, it shows :—

A *decrease* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£39,503
A *decrease* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	34,355
Total *decrease* on the month.....	£73,858

And, as compared with the month ending June 6th, 1857, it shows—

A *decrease* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£670,349
A *decrease* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	197,926
Total *decrease*, as compared with the same period of last year	£868,275

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	£1,096,089
The Joint-Stock Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	422,537
Total BELOW the fixed issues	£1,518,596

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH *and* SCOTCH BANKS *during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 5th day of June*, 1858.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt. of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland	3,738,428	2,047,375	1,194,150	3,241,525	801,379
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	387,173	486,794	873,967	454,469
Belfast Bank	281,611	70,927	266,149	337,076	274,697
Northern Bank	243,440	51,363	199,604	250,968	165,690
Ulster Bank	311,079	67,347	271,442	338,790	147,905
The National Bank	852,269	576,933	488,442	1,065,376	525,566
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	3,201,118	2,906,581	6,107,702	2,369,706

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	167,148	321,995	489,143	272,879
Royal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	175,896	281,294	457,190	330,987
British Linen Company	438,024	197,627	326,703	524,330	331,520
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	182,805	331,161	513,966	242,095
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	151,893	278,816	430,710	216,848
Union Bank of Scotland and BankingCom. in Aberdeen	454,346	194,071	384,691	578,762	194,236
Edinburgh & Glasgow Bk...	136,657	54,175	82,428	136,603	35,544
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	60,020	75,645	135,665	71,237
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	116,427	112,295	228,722	87,259
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	17,077	29 081	46,159	29,289
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	16,437	22,870	39,307	20.321
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	11,475	8,417	19,892	2,095
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	104,028	83,941	152,310	236,252	158,322
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	119,608	154,738	274,347	227,973
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	24,505	48,041	72,546	34,683
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	21,580	36,522	58,102	28,599
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,594,695	2,647,007	4,241,696	2,283,887

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO JUNE 5, 1858.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 5th June, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz.:—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks	£6,107,702
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks	4,241,696
Total Average Circulation of these Banks for the past month	£10,349,398

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 8th May last, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£155,025
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	529,018
Total increase on the month	£373,993

And, as compared with the month ending June 6th, 1857, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£806,129
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	146,493
Total decrease on the year	£952,622

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows:—

6 Banks in Ireland, allowed to issue	£6,384,624
16 Banks in Scotland, allowed to issue	3,487,382
22 Banks in all, allowed to issue	£9,441,706

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation:—

Irish Banks are below their fixed issue	£276,922
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue	1,154,457
Total above the fixed issue	£877,535

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows:—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks	£2,269,705
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks	2,283,887
Total of Gold and Silver Coin	£4,553,592

Being an increase of £80,445 on the part of the Irish Banks, and an increase of £135,276 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO JUNE 5, 1858.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 5th June, 1858:—

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending 5th June, as compared with the previous month:—

	May 8.	June 5.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England (month ending June 2)	£20,496,079	£20,245,586	—	£250,493
Private Banks	3,348,379	3,302,876	—	39,503
Joint-Stock Banks	2,914,175	2,879,820	—	34,355
Total in England	26,758,633	26,434,282	—	324,351
Scotland	3,712,678	4,241,696	529,018	—
Ireland	6,262,727	6,107,702	—	155,025
United Kingdom	£36,734,038	£36,783,680	£529,018	£479,376

The comparison of the month ending June 6th, 1857, with the month ending June 5th, 1858, shows an *increase* in the Bank of England circulation of £1,210,621, a *decrease* in Private Banks of £670,349, and a *decrease* in Joint-Stock Banks of £197,926; being a total *increase* in England of £342,346; while in Scotland there is a *decrease* of £146,493; and in Ireland a *decrease* of £806,129. Thus showing that the month ending 5th June, as compared with the same period last year, presents an *increase* of £342,346 in *England*, and a *decrease* of £610,276 in the *United Kingdom*.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending June 2nd gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £18,010,222. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending May 5th, there appears to be a *decrease* of £451,012; and an *increase* of £8,014,850 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 5th June, was £4,653,593; being an *increase* of £215,721 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an *increase* of £412,919 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

Waterlow and Sons, Printers, Carpenters' Hall, London Wall.

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—*Daily Prices from 30th June to 27th July, 1858, inclusive.*

	30	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	16	17	19	20	21	22	23	24	26	27
Bank Stock, div. 5½ p.c. ½-year	220¾	222	220½	222	220½	222	222	222	222	222	..	221	222	223	223	224	222½	224	225	226	226	226	225	227
3 per Ct. Red. Anns.	95¾	95⅝	95½	95⅝	95⅝	95¾	95⅝	95¾	95⅛	95⅞	95⅝	95⅝	95⅝	95⅝	95¼	95¾	96⅛	96¼	95⅞	96¼	96⅛	96⅛	96¼	96⅛
3 per ct. Consols Anns.	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	95½	95¾	95⅛	95⅜	95⅛	95	95⅛	95	95¼	95¼	95⅛	95⅜	95⅝	95¾	95⅞	96	95⅞	95½	95⅜
Ditto ex. div. for opening	95¼	95⅛	95⅜	95¼	95⅜	95¼	95⅛	95⅜	95⅝	..	95⅛	95¼	95¼	95¼	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New 3 per cent. Anns.	95¾	95⅝	95⅜	95⅜	95¼	95¾	96⅛	95⅞	95⅞	95¾	95⅛	95⅝	95⅞	95¾	95⅞	96	96¼	96¼	96¼	96⅛	96⅛	96¼	96¼	96
New 3½ per cent.	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	101	..
New 2½ per cent.	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	78½	shut	78½	..	79⅜	79¼	79½	..	78¾	79⅛	..	..	..	..	..
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝	..	1⅝	1¾	1¾	1⅝	..	..	1¾	..	..	1⅝	..	..	..	1⅝	..	..	..	..	1¾
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1⅝	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	1¼	..	..	..	..	..	1⅝	..	..	..	..	1½	1⅝
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1880	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	shut	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Apl. 5, 1885	..	18½	..	..	..	..	..	18½	..	..	..	18⅜	..	..	18¼	18½	18½	18¼	..	18½	18⅜	18½	18½	18½
India Stock (div. 10½ percent.	shut	..	shut	shut	..	shut	221	..	219	221	218	221	..	218	218	..	219	..	..	..	217	..	..	..
Ditto Loan Debentures	..	99¼	99⅞	..	99⅝	99½	99⅝	99½	99⅝	..	99⅝	99⅝	99½	99⅝	99⅛	99½	99	99	..	99½	99¼	..	99½	99⅜
Ditto Ditto Scrip	..	99⅛	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do. Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)	..	15sp	..	..	20sp	..	19sp	..	20sp	..	..	16sp	..	16sp	15sp	..	..	..	..	19sp	19sp	..	19sp	..
Ditto, under £500	20sp	..	..	16sp	20sp	16sp	..	..	16sp	..	20sp	20sp	20sp	..	..	15sp	19sp	19sp	..	19sp	15sp	15sp	..	..
Bank Stock for ac. 8th July	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 8th July	95⅛	95⅝	95½	95¼	95¼	95½	95⅝	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto for account 5th August	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	95¾	95⅝	..	95⅜	95⅜	95⅛	95⅝	95½	95⅛	95⅜	95⅝	95¾	95⅞	96	95⅞	95⅝	95⅝
Ex. Bills £1000, 2½d. *per diem*	17sp	17sp	..	20sp	21sp	21sp	..	20sp	22sp	..	20sp	23sp	24sp	24sp	25sp	22sp	..	26sp	26sp	23sp	23sp	23sp	26sp	23sp
Ditto. £500 do.	18sp	20sp	..	20sp	..	21sp	22sp	22sp	19sp	19sp	..	23sp	..	21sp	25sp	..	..	..	23sp	..	..	26sp	23sp	..
Ditto. Small do.	17sp	20sp	..	20sp	..	21sp	18sp	22sp	19sp	19sp	..	20sp	23sp	..	25sp	22sp	25sp	..	23sp	..	..	26sp	22sp	26sp
Ditto B 1859	..	100¾	..	..	..	101¼	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100⅜	100¼	..	100⅞	..	..	..	..	..	101	100⅜
Ditto under £1000	100⅞	101	100⅝	..	101	101½	..	..	101⅛	..	101	100⅞	..	..	..	..	..	100⅝	100⅝	100¾	101	..	..	..

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

				London Latest Prices.
Australasia	£40 sh.,	£40	0 pd.	£86½
British North American	50	50	0	54½
Bank of London	100	50	0	49½
Commercial of London	100	20	0	20
Colonial	100	25	0	29
City Bank	100	50	0	61
London and Westminster	100	20	0	48½
London Joint Stock	50	10	0	31⅛
Oriental Bank	25	25	0	37⅛
Provincial of Ireland	100	25	0	62
National Bank	50	25	0	40½
National Provincial of England	150	35	0	79½
South Australian	25	25	0	30½
Union of Australia	25	25	0	63
Union of London	20	10	0	23¾
London and County	50	20	0	29¾
London Chartered of Australia	20	20	0	20
Bk. of India, & Austra. Chartrd.	20	20	0	18
New South Wales	20	20	0	46
Bank of Egypt	25	25	0	23¾
Ottoman Bank	20	20	0	16¼

FOREIGN STOCKS *(27th July.)*

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent.	103
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent.	104½
Danish 5 per Cent.	105
Mexican 3 per Cent.	19⅝
Peruvian 4½ per Cent.	89½
Portuguese Bonds, 3 per Cent.	45½
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 per Cent. in £ Ster.	113
Ditto, 4½ per cent.	100
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cents.	43½
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred	27⅛
Turkish 6 per Cent.	95½
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Dutch 2½ per Cent.	66⅛
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan	102½
French 4½ per Cent., at Paris, July 27,	96f. 0c.
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	68f. 25c.

RAILWAY SHARES.

Company.	Paid up £	Prices June 26.	Prices July 27.
Caledonian	100	75½	76½
Eastern Counties	100	60⅜	61½
Great Northern	100	100	102
Great Western	100	49⅝	49½
London and Blackwall	13½	6	6
London and Brighton	100	108	169
——— North-West.	100	89⅝	91½
——— South-West.	100	92⅝	94½
Midland	100	91½	92½
South-Eastern	100	67½	68
York, Newcsle. & Berwick	100	89½	91
York & North Midland	100	69¼	72½

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as fol

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1858. June 16th.	1858. June 23rd	1858. June 30th	1858. July 7th.
	£	£	£	£
Notes issued	31,666,565	31,821,280	31,714,760	31,284,450
Government debentures	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities	5,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900
Gold coin and bullion	17,211,585	17,346,280	17,239,760	16,729,450
Silver bullion	—	—	—	—
	31,686,585	31,821,280	31,714,760	31,284,350

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1858. June 16th.	1858. June 23rd.	1858. June 30th.	1858. July 7th.
	£	£	£	£
Proprietors' capital	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000
Rest	3,161,071	3,163,701	3,174,103	3,211,647
Public deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	6,962,660	7,396,156	7,395,129	6,994,930
Other deposits	13,654,427	13,582,872	13,291,968	13,153,645
Seven day and other bills	784,130	733,719	767,144	908,527
	38,215,308	38,329,448	39,091,344	38,723,749
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuities)	10,630,123	10,656,138	10,676,963	10,692,417
Other securities	14,648,140	14,614,369	16,425,689	16,685,445
Notes	12,219,180	12,372,085	11,290,005	10,666,660
Gold and silver coin	707,865	686,856	698,687	679,207
	38,215,308	38,329,448	39,091,344	38,723,749

The Exchanges.

	June 4th.	June 11th.	June 18th.	June 25th.
Amsterdam, short	11 15½	11 15½	11 15½	11 15
Ditto 3 months	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½
Rotterdam, ditto	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½
Antwerp, ditto	25 35	25 32½	25 32½	25 35
Brussels, ditto	25 35	25 32½	25 32½	25 35
Hamburgh, ditto	13 7½	13 7	13 7½	13 7½
Paris, short	25 7½	25 7½	25 7½	25 7½
Paris, 3 months	25 32½	25 30	25 32½	25 32½
Marseilles, ditto	25 32½	25 32½	25 32½	25 32½
Frankfort, ditto	118½	118½	118½	118½
Vienna, ditto	10 25	10 26	10 27	10 26
Trieste, ditto	10 26	10 27	10 28	10 28
Petersburgh, ditto	35½	35½	35½	35½
Madrid, ditto	49½	49½	49½	49½
Cadiz, ditto	49½	49½	49½	49½
Leghorn, ditto	29 55	29 60	29 55	29 60
Genoa, ditto	25 47½	25 42½	25 40	25 42½
Naples, ditto	41½	41½	41½	41½
Palermo, ditto	125½	125½	125½	125½
Messina, ditto	125½	125½	126	126
Lisbon, ditto	51½	51½	52	52
Oporto, ditto	52½	52½	52½	52½
Rio Janeiro 60 dys.' dte	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

Foreign Gold in Bars (Standard)	Per Ounce. £3 17 9	Per Ounce. £3 17 9	Per Ounce. £3 17 9	Per Ounce. £3 17 9
Mexican Dollars	0 0 0	0 5 0½	0 0 0	0 0 0
Silver in Bars (Stand.)	0 0 0	0 0 0½	0 0 0	0 0 1½

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTE.

PRIVATE BANKS.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT.			
			June 12.	June 19.	June 26.	July 3.
		£	£	£	£	£
1	Andover Bank	17,751	9,194	8,542	9,854	9,598
2	Ashford Bank	11,849	10,165	10,490	9,463	10,613
3	Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	21,493	22,697	23,112	22,397
4	Baldock and Biggleswade Bank	37,223	25,646	25,330	24,295	23,456
5	Barnstaple Bank	17,182	8,137	7,759	7,330	7,050
6	Basingstoke and Odiham Bank	24,730	21,364	20,913	21,260	21,369
7	Bedford Bank	34,218	31,908	30,903	32,332	32,575
8	Bewdley Bank	18,597	8,913	9,357	9,703	9,733
9	Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank	27,090	14,525	15,126	14,610	14,679
10	Birmingham Bank—Attwoods & Co.	23,695	21,610	20,466	21,769	22,682
11	Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	63,777	64,216	65,192	66,263
12	Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	14,544	14,760	14,507	13,605
13	Bridgewater Bank	10,028	8,161	7,960	7,913	8,289
14	Bristol Bank	48,277	31,957	31,285	31,593	33,347
15	Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank	26,717	13,489	14,074	13,344	14,329
16	Buckingham Bank	29,557	22,153	21,353	21,103	20,928
17	Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	59,342	59,011	55,225	57,064
18	Banbury Bank	43,457	28,063	28,408	31,788	29,834
19	Banbury Old Bank	55,153	26,011	25,753	25,712	23,890
20	Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	35,847	33,972	34,432	34,886
21	Birmingham Bk.—Lloyds & Co.	38,816	23,490	23,365	24,285	23,196
22	Bradford Old Bank	12,676	11,828	12,450	12,277	12,617
23	Brecon Old Bank	68,271	36,066	36,558	36,049	38,791
24	Brighton Union Bank	33,794	15,968	15,469	15,700	15,905
25	Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	10,502	11,133	12,058	12,591
26	Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,007	1,916	1,945	2,215
27	Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	11,913	11,237	11,373	11,588
28	Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	42,430	42,092	43,150	43,670
29	Canterbury Bank	33,671	26,830	26,471	27,404	27,795
30	Carmarthen Bank	23,597	17,992	17,885	17,983	17,817
31	Chertsey Bank	3,436	3,159	3,000	3,210	3,009
32	Colchester Bank	25,082	16,220	15,353	15,479	15,550
33	Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	31,694	30,917	32,246	34,168
34	Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co.	49,869	36,588	36,186	37,267	39,110
35	Coventry Bank	12,045	4,955	4,651	4,655	4,899
36	City Bank, Exeter	21,527	18,021	18,100	17,570	17,727
37	Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co.	77,154	63,365	61,325	60,528	60,595
38	Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	8,222	7,648	8,369	9,408
39	Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	10,873	10,453	9,686	10,162
40	Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	31,722	30,045	28,434	27,658
41	Derby Old Bank	27,237	25,352	25,370	24,773	28,277
42	Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	6,586	6,459	6,315	6,744
43	Diss Bank	10,657	10,195	10,113	10,066	10,468
44	Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	49,993	52,120	54,179	55,523
45	Darlington Bank	86,218	78,234	78,600	80,194	79,115
46	Devonport Bank	10,664	7,787	7,477	7,695	8,070
47	Dorchester Old Bank	48 807	40,544	40,352	41,134	41,822
48	East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	79,438	79,843	78,765	78,165
59	East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	50,739	49,745	51,665	51,552
50	Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	37,230	35,953	35,290	36,397
51	Exeter Bank	37,894	24,858	24,358	24,677	25,630
52	Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	6,806	6,791	6,556	6,405
53	Farnham Bank	14,202	8,980	8,864	8,587	8,854
54	Faversham Bank	6,681	5,420	5,624	5,750	5,570
55	Godalming Bank	6,322	5,376	5,455	5,375	5,595
56	Guildford Bank	14,524	13,696	13,417	13,620	13,872
57	Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	25,683	25,642	25,087	24,783

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. Oct. 2.	Oct. 9.	Oct. 16.	Oct. 23.
		£	£	£	£	£
58	Hereford City and County Bank..	22,364	13,580	13,761	14,411	16,385
59	Hull & Kingston-upon-Hull Bank	19,979	18,938	20,132	21,181	19,664
60	Huntingdon Town & County Bank	56,591	45,485	45,880	47,015	46,692
61	Harwich Bank	5,778	5,180	4,879	4,324	4,591
62	Hertfordshire, Hitchin Bank	38,764	32,605	33,104	32,603	30,413
63	Hereford, Ross, & Archenfield Bk.	27,625	20,294	19,925	20,389	22,798
64	Ipswich Bank	21,901	19,463	19,642	20,047	20,155
65	Ipswich & Needham Market Bank	80,699	62,689	64,533	64,708	63,530
66	Kentish Bank—Mercer & Co. ...	19,895	11,975	13,494	13,965	18,345
67	Kington and Radnorshire Bank...	26,050	26,060	25,998	26,004	26,009
68	Knaresborough Old Bank	21,825	18,171	18,480	18,825	18,900
69	Kendal Bank	44,663	43,066	44,904	44,500	43,762
70	Longton Staffordshire Bank	5,624	5,104	5,136	5,231	5,240
71	Leeds Bank	53,357	53,354	53,962	54,530	51,558
72	Leeds Union Bank	37,459	37,091	36,915	37,209	37,340
73	Leicester Bank	32,322	23,322	24,421	30,933	30,743
74	Lewes Old Bank	44,836	24,021	25,341	25,115	25,355
75	Lincoln Bank	100,342	83,045	87,000	87,944	88,961
76	Llandovery Bank & Llandilo Bank	32,945	31,067	29,328	29,318	28,212
77	Loughborough Bank	7,359	7,240	7,730	7,348	6,629
78	Lymington Bank	5,038	3,825	3,790	3,630	3,330
79	Lynn Regis and Lincolnshire Bank	42,817	33,186	34,725	34,700	34,958
80	Lynn Regis and Norfolk Bank ...	13,917	11,539	11,470	11,531	11,040
81	Macclesfield Bank	15,760	15,400	15,249	15,250	15,134
82	Manningtree Bank	7,692	1,564	2,017	1,316	1,157
83	Merionethshire Bank	10,906	10,245	9,666	9,488	9,414
84	Miners' Bank	18,688	16,236	16,517	16,556	16,292
85	Monmouthshire Agricultural and Commercial Bank	29,335	28,675	30,570	29,925	28,057
86	Monmouth Old Bank	16,385	13,633	14,033	14,640	14,434
87	Newark Bank	28,788	19,581	21,270	21,703	21,934
88	Newark and Sleaford Bank	51,615	48,928	47,578	48,210	51,007
89	Newbury Bank	36,787	18,867	19,775	20,398	19,712
90	Newmarket Bank	23,098	17,152	17,271	17,687	17,924
91	Norwich Crown Bank and Norfolk and Suffolk Bank	49,671	50,382	49,536	48,170	47,233
92	Norwich and Norfolk Bank	105,519	96,383	100,361	104,544	98,710
93	Nottingham, Nottinghamshire ...	10,866	9,968	9,476	9,541	9,690
94	Nuneaton Bank	5,898	2,510	3,050	3,596	3,673
95	Naval Bank, Plymouth	27,321	21,121	22,176	21,708	22,726
96	New Sarum Bank.—Everett and Pinckneys	15,659	9,892	10,136	10,315	9,957
97	Nottingham Bank	31,047	27,580	28,076	27,748	26,736
98	Oswestry Bank	18,471	9,306	9,850	9,887	9,488
99	Oxford Old Bank	34,391	27,716	28,962	28,810	31,438
100	Old Bank, Tonbridge	13,183	7,262	7,954	8,571	9,304
101	Oxfordshire Witney Bank	11,852	10,655	11,124	11,343	11,340
102	Pease's Old Bank, Hull	48,807	36,274	36,377	36,067	37,180
103	Penzance Bank	11,405	8,636	8,284	6,951	5,915
104	Peterborough Bank—Yorke & Co.	12,545	9,721	11,184	11,832	11,110
105	Pembrokeshire Bank	12,910	12,715	13,214	11,745	11,301
106	Reading Bank—Simmonds & Co.	37,519	26,315	27,146	27,264	26,063
107	Reading Bk.—Stephens & Blandy	43,271	27,213	27,967	28,047	28,088
108	Richmond Bank, Richmond	6,889	6,395	6,817	7,018	6,880
109	Rochdale Bank	5,590	2,971	3,096	3,131	3,161
110	Rochester, Chatham, & Strood Bk.	10,480	6,548	7,519	7,303	6,915
111	Royston Bank	16,393	12,440	12,015	12,385	12,110
112	Rugby Bank	17,250	10,030	10,106	10,051	9,894
113	Rye Bank	29,864	10,237	10,886	11,181	13,482
114	Ross Old Bank, Herefordshire ...	4,420	4,408	4,409	4,687	3,914
115	Saffron Walden & North Essex Bk.	47,646	24,358	24,832	24,924	24,862

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. May 15.	May 22.	May 29	June 5.
		£	£	£	£	£
116	Salop Bank	22,338	13,972	14,107	13,851	13,318
117	Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	22,457	21,957	21,366	20,489
118	Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	36,246	34,583	32,938	31,995
119	Sittingbourne and Milton Bank	4,789	2,883	2,722	2,564	2,616
120	Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	10,539	10,630	12,036	10,653
121	Southwell Bank	14,744	11,218	11,390	11,436	11,298
122	Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	2,911	2,806	2,665	2,579
123	Stafford Old Bank	14,166	12,260	11,254	11,122	10,922
124	Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	27,475	26,499	25,475	23,817
125	Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	21,937	22,341	21,646	21,705
126	Taunton Bank	29,799	22,266	21,692	22,694	22,536
127	Tavistock Bank	13,421	8,189	7,809	7,047	7,061
128	Thornbury Bank	10,026	9,160	9,364	9,205	9,693
129	Tiverton and Devonshire Bank	13,470	9,963	9,499	8,973	8,119
130	Thrapstone and Kettering Bank	11,559	10,912	11,035	11,085	11,556
131	Tring Bank and Chesham Bank	13,531	13,289	13,706	13,718	13,187
132	Towcester Old Bank	10,801	7,386	7,603	7,559	7,306
133	Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	8,934	8,612	8,547	8,065
134	Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	12,765	11,499	10,935	11,923
135	Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	11,524	10,840	11,220	11,255
136	Wallingford Bank	17,064	6,420	6,446	6,600	7,093
137	Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	21,230	20,630	19,796	19,712
138	Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	1,966	2,015	1,982	1,963
139	West Riding Bank	46,158	37,714	37,432	28,119	40,813
140	Whitby Old Bank	14,258	13,495	13,205	13,145	12,648
141	Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	15,802	15,253	15,645	15,515
142	Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	12,468	12,407	12,307	12,382
143	Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	35,340	34,478	35,172	34,826
144	Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	46,223	45,527	45,543	44,230
145	Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	7,131	6,650	5,759	5,059
146	Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	6,950	7,398	7,060	6,954
147	Worcester Old Bank	87,448	53,524	52,731	50,538	51,175
148	Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	8,376	8,126	7,531	7,027
149	Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	37,025	37,129	37,406	36,931
150	Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	11,015	10,105	10,062	9,834
151	York Bank	46,387	40,106	38,691	37,684	36,267

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1	Bank of Westmoreland	12,225	10,566	10,983	11,315	11,072
2	Barnsley Banking Company	9,563	8,207	8,325	8,310	8,302
3	Bradford Banking Company	49,292	47,195	48,217	46,665	46,976
4	Bilston District Banking Company	9,418	8,395	8,622	8,073	8,261
5	Bank of Whitehaven	32,681	29,144	29,514	29,527	28,630
6	Bradford Commercial Banking Co.	20,084	19,259	20,334	19,769	19,415
7	Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank	60,701	49,729	48,797	47,531	45,375

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUN		
			Oct. 2.	Oct 9.	Oct. 16
		£	£	£	£
8	Chesterfield & N. Derbysh. Bk. Co.	10,421	10,448	10,366	10,18
9	Cumberland Union Banking Co....	35,395	35,575	36,631	35,03
10	Coventry and Warwickshire Bk. Co.	28,734	22,705	23,439	24,48
11	Coventry Union Banking Company	16,251	14,033	13,963	14,17
12	County of Gloucester Banking Co.	144,352	102,397	105,370	108,92
13	Carlisle & Cumberland Banking Co.	25,610	21,008	22,243	22,15
14	Carlisle City and District Bank ...	19,972	20,279	20,289	19,50
15	Dudley & West Bromwich Bk. Co.	37,696	29,860	30,805	32,07
16	Derby and Derbyshire Banking Co.	20,093	20,685	19,387	18,84
17	Darlington Dist. Joint Stock Bk. Co.	26,134	25,924	26,380	26,17
18	East of England Bank	25,025	24,953	26,255	25,12
19	Gloucestershire Banking Company	155,920	140,613	143,390	146,23
20	Halifax Joint Stock Bank.....	18,534	19,033	18,832	18,51
21	Huddersfield Banking Company...	37,354	35,539	34,378	39,40
22	Hull Banking Company	29,333	23,395	25,854	26,79
23	Halifax Commercial Banking Co...	13,733	9,983	11,028	12,01
24	Halifax & Huddersfield Union Bk.	44,137	44,150	42,015	44,19
25	Helston Banking Company	1,503	1,519	1,518	1,48
26	Herefordshire Banking Company..	25,047	21,379	20,976	22,47
27	Knaresborough and Claro Bk. Co.	28,059	25,891	27,483	28,21
28	Kingsbridge Joint Stock Bank	3,952	2,352	2,569	2,38
29	Lancaster Banking Company	64,311	53,938	54,408	57,83
30	Leeds Banking Company	23,076	23,935	23,181	23,62
31	Leicestershire Banking Company...	86,060	61,111	66,310	71,48
32	Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co..	51,620	53,098	50,844	50,11
33	Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Bank	13,875	9,332	9,642	9,65
34	Ludlow and Tenbury Bank	10,215	10,325	9,948	10,55
35	Moore & Robinson's Notts. Bank...	35,813	32,002	31,625	30,20
36	Nottingham and Notts. Banking Co.	29,477	29,361	28,845	29,07
37	National Provincial Bk. of England	442,371	449,194	448,584	423,92
38	North Wilts Banking Company ...	63,939	42,339	43,549	45,61
39	Northamptonshire Union Bank ...	84,356	77,964	80,272	80,35
40	Northamptonshire Banking Co. ...	26,401	19,659	20,280	19,86
41	North and South Wales Bank.....	63,951	64,665	60,151	60,57
42	Pare's Leicestershire Banking Co...	59,300	44,445	45,608	49,48
43	Saddleworth Banking Company ...	8,122	1,820	2,080	2,14
44	Sheffield Banking Company.....	35,843	35,608	36,338	36,31
45	Stamford, Spalding & Boston Bk. Co.	55,721	54,596	55,895	56,25
46	Stuckey's Banking Company	356,976	353,315	363,017	348,38
47	Shropshire Banking Company.....	47,951	40,845	42,175	41,11
48	Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bk.	56,830	50,087	52,627	54,23
49	Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank ...	23,524	23,207	24,724	22,91
50	Sheffield & Rotherham Jt. Stock Bk.	52,496	53,275	52,674	51,93
51	Swaledale and Wensleydale Bank..	54,372	51,153	51,631	51,83
52	Wolverhampton & Staffordsh. Bk..	35,378	26,621	28,145	31,26
53	Wakefield and Barnsley Union Bk.	14,604	14,454	15,089	14,65
54	Whitehaven Joint Stock Bank ...	31,916	24,981	26,092	26,47
55	Warwick and Leamington Bk. Co.	37,124	25,416	27,132	26,04
56	West of England and South Wales District Bank.....	83,535	62,132	64,832	63,54
57	Wilts & Dorset Banking Company	76,162	74,536	74,409	75,00
58	West Riding Union Banking Co....	34,029	32,398	32,625	34,02
59	Whitchurch and Ellesmere Bk. Co.	7,475	3,660	3,551	3,51
60	Worcester City and County Bk. Co.	6,848	5,898	6,038	6,23
61	York Union Banking Company ...	71,240	68,886	69,522	70,36
62	York City and County Banking Co.	94,695	88,725	90,536	94,18
63	Yorkshire Banking Company	122,532	116,780	123,133	127,60

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY RETURNS OF BANKS OF ISSUE.

	Fixed Issues.	June 12.	June 19.	June 26.	July 3.
151 Private Banks.....	£4,404,935	£3,213,894	£3,173,471	£3,178,141	£3,222,056
63 Joint-Stock Banks..	3,302,357	2,769,890	2,744,789	2,755,034	2,749,229
214 Totals	7,707,292	5,983,784	5,918,260	5,933,175	5,971,285

Average Weekly Circulation of these Banks for the month ending July 3rd:—

Private Banks	£3,196,890
Joint-Stock Banks	2,754,735
Average Weekly Circulation of Private and Joint-Stock Banks ending as above	£5,951,625

On a comparison of the above with the Returns for the month ending 5th June last, it shows:—

A *decrease* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£111,986
A *decrease* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	125,085
Total *decrease* on the month.....	£237,071

And, as compared with the month ending July 4th, 1857, it shows—

A *decrease* in the notes of Private Banks, of	£420,351
A *decrease* in the notes of Joint-Stock Banks, of	253,799
Total *decrease*, as compared with the same period of last year	£674,150

The following is the comparative state of the circulation, as regards the fixed issues—

The Private Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	£1,208,045
The Joint-Stock Banks are *below* their fixed issues.....	547,622
Total BELOW the fixed issues	£1,755,667

Irish and Scotch Circulation Returns.

Average Circulation, and Coin held by the IRISH *and* SCOTCH BANKS *during the four weeks ending Saturday, the 3rd day of July*, 1858.

IRISH BANKS.

NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Circulation.	Average Circulation during Four Weeks, ending as above.			Average Amt. of Gold & Silver Coin held during Four Weeks ending as above.
		£5 and upwards.	Under £5.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland.....	3,738,428	1,948,525	1,180,650	3,129,175	842,296
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	374,192	460,106	834,298	461,144
Belfast Bank	281,611	68,053	246,259	314,313	275,866
Northern Bank	243,440	51,518	185,252	236,771	171,258
Ulster Bank	311,079	65,100	258,376	215,476	156,376
The National Bank	852,269	546,103	470,967	1,017,070	513,867
TOTALS (Irish Banks) ...	6,354,494	3,053,491	2,793,610	5,847,103	2,420,857

SCOTCH BANKS.

Bank of Scotland	300,485	157,947	298,193	456,140	285,185
Royal Bank of Scotland ...	183,000	168,664	261,895	430,559	331,097
British Linen Company	438,024	197,553	308,499	506,052	339,832
Commercial Bk. of Scotland	374,880	167,468	309,421	476,890	255,472
National Bank of Scotland..	297,024	145,541	263,791	409,332	222,504
Union Bank of Scotland and BankingCom. in Aberdeen	454,346	181,980	366,695	548,675	204,318
Aberdeen Town and Co. Bk.	70,133	53,681	74,300	127,981	68,973
North of Scotland Bk. Co...	154,319	94,313	104,642	178,955	88,297
Dundee Banking Company	33,451	17,282	26,356	43,639	27,165
Eastern Bank of Scotland...	33,636	12,117	21,291	33,408	21,248
Western Bank of Scotland..	337,938	10,787	6,839	17,626	2,115
Clydesdale Banking Co. ...	240,685	114,702	182,539	297,242	172,375
City of Glasgow Bank	72,921	115,496	149,725	265,221	248,447
Caledonian Banking Co. ...	53,434	22,093	46,422	68,516	34,084
Central Bank of Scotland...	42,933	20,656	35,182	55,839	28,085
TOTALS (Scotch Banks)...	3,087,209	1,480,280	2,455,790	3,936,085	2,329,077

SUMMARY OF IRISH & SCOTCH RETURNS TO OCTOBER 23, 1858.

The Returns of Circulation of the Irish and Scotch Banks for the four weeks ending 23rd October, when added together, give the following as the average weekly circulation of these banks during the past month, viz.:—

Average Circulation of the Irish Banks	£6,690,882
Average Circulation of the Scotch Banks	4,062,249
Total Average Circulation of these Banks for the past month	£10,753,131

On comparing these amounts with the Returns for the month ending 25th September last, they show—

Increase in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£766,085
Increase in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	179,937
Total increase on the month	£946,022

And, as compared with the month ending October 24th, 1857, they show—

Decrease in the Circulation of Irish Banks	£571,077
Decrease in the Circulation of Scotch Banks	185,972
Total decrease on the year	£757,049

The fixed issues of the Irish and Scotch Banks at the present time are given in the *Banking Almanac*, as follows:—

6 Banks in Ireland, issue	£6,354,494
16 Banks in Scotland issue	3,087,299
22 Banks in all, allowed to issue	£9,441,793

The following appears, therefore, to be the comparative state of the circulation:—

Irish Banks are above their fixed issue	£336,388
Scotch Banks are above their fixed issue	975,040
Total above the fixed issue	£1,311,428

The amounts of Gold and Silver held at the head offices of the several banks, during the past month, have been as follows:—

Gold and Silver held by the Irish Banks	£2,455,761
Gold and Silver held by the Scotch Banks	2,322,879
Total of Gold and Silver Coin	£4,778,640

Being an increase of £33,203 on the part of the Irish Banks, and a decrease of £59,217 on the part of the Scotch Banks, on the several amounts held by them during the preceding month.

CIRCULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO OCTOBER 23, 1858.

The following is the state of the Note Circulation of the United Kingdom, for the month ending the 23rd October, 1858:—

Circulation of Notes for the Month ending 23rd October, as compared with the previous month:—

	Sep. 25.	Oct. 23.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bank of England (month ending Oct. 20)	£20,121,581	£21,004,502	£882,921	—
Private Banks	3,224,354	3,508,957	284,603	—
Joint-Stock Banks	2,805,622	3,009,595	203,973	—
Total in England	26,151,557	27,523,054	1,371,497	—
Scotland	3,882,312	4,062,249	179,937	—
Ireland	5,924,797	6,690,882	766,085	—
United Kingdom	£35,958,666	£38,276,185	£2,317,519	—

The comparison of the month ending October 24th, 1857, with the month ending October 23rd, 1858, shows an *increase* in the Bank of England circulation of £1,032,778, a *decrease* in Private Banks of £336,896, and a *decrease* in Joint-Stock Banks of £129,097; being a total *increase* in England of £566,785; while in Scotland there is a *decrease* of £185,972; and in Ireland a *decrease* of £571,077. Thus showing that the month ending 23rd October, as compared with the same period last year, presents an *increase* of £566,785 in *England*, and a *decrease* of £190,264 in the *United Kingdom*.

The return of Bullion in the Bank of England, for the month ending October 20th, gives an aggregate amount in both departments of £19,397,626. On a comparison of this with the Return for the month ending September 22nd, there appears to be an *increase* of £992,716; and an *increase* of £9,480,899 as compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Banks in Scotland and Ireland during the month ending 23rd October, was £4,778,640; being an *increase* of £92,420 as compared with the return of the previous month, and an *increase* of £720,818 as compared with the corresponding period last year.

Waterlow and Sons, Printers, Carpenters' Hall, London Wall.

THE ENGLISH FUNDS.—*Daily Prices from 28th July to 24th August, 1858, inclusive.*

	28	29	30	31	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	16	17	18	19	20	21	23	24
Bank Stock, div. 5½ p.c. ½-year	226	224	226	227	226½	227	225½	..	227	226	227	227	227	228	228	226½	228	227	227½	227½	227½	..	..	227½
3 per Ct. Red. Anns. - - -	96¼	96⅝	96⅝	96⅞	96⅝	96⅞	96⅞	97	96⅞	97⅛	97¼	97	97¼	97	97	97	97	97	97	97⅛	97⅛	97¼	97⅜	97⅜
3 per ct. Consols Anns. - - -	95⅞	95⅞	96⅛	96¼	96	96	96½	96⅛	96⅞	96⅛	96⅛	96⅛	96⅛	96⅛	96¼	96⅜	96⅜	96¼	96¼	96⅝	96⅝	96⅝	96⅝	96⅝
New 3 per cent. Anns. - - -	96¼	96⅝	96⅛	96⅞	96¾	96¾	96⅞	96⅞	97	97⅛	97⅜	97¼	97	97¼	97	97	96⅞	97	97	97	97¼	97⅜	97⅜	97⅜
New 3½ per cent. - - - - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	101	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	101	..	..	..
New 2½ per cent. - - - - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	79½	..	..	80½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5 per cent. - - - - - - -	115	115	..	..	..	..	114	..	..	..	..	116	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860 - -	..	1⅝	..	..	..	..	1⅝	..	..	..	..	..	1⅝	..	1⅝	..	..	1⅝	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859 -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1⅝	..	..	1⅝	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1860 -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1⅝	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Jan. 5, 1880 -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto 30 years, Apl. 5, 1885	18½	18½	18¼	..	..	18½	..	18½	18⅝	..	18½	18⅝	..	..	..	..	18½	18⅝	..	18⅝	..	..	18½	18⅝
India Stock (div. 10½ percent.	217	219	219½	219½	..	220	217	..	220	..	..	217	..	..	..	219	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	216
Ditto Loan Debentures - - -	99⅜	99½	99¼	98¼	..	99¼	98¾	99	..	..	98¾	98¾	..	98½	98¼	98½	97⅞	98¼	97¾	98¼	98¼	98⅛	98½	..
Ditto Ditto Scrip - - - - -	..	99¼	..	..	..	..	..	..	98½	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do. Bonds £1000 (div. 4 p.c.)	18sp	19sp	15sp	19sp	16sp	..	..	19sp	15sp	..	19sp	15sp	15sp	..	18sp	..	..	..	18sp	..	10sp	..	15sp	15sp
Ditto, under £500 - - -	..	..	15sp	16sp	20sp	..	..	..	..	..	19sp	18sp	18sp	19sp	..	..	14sp	..	18sp	..	..	15sp	..	17sp
Bank Stock for ac. 7th Sept. - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	227	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 p. Ct. Cons. for ac. 5th August	95¾	95¾	95¼	96¼	96⅛	96⅛	96⅛	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto for account 7th Sept. - -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96⅜	96⅜	96⅜	96¾	96¾	96⅝	96⅞	96⅞	96⅞	96⅞	96⅞	96⅞	96⅞	96⅝	96⅝	96⅝	96⅝
Ex. Bills £1000, 2d. *per diem*	25sp	22sp	25sp	26sp	23sp	23sp	26sp	22sp	24sp	24sp	24sp	24sp	22sp	22sp	21sp	20sp	23sp	20sp	23sp	20sp	24sp	25sp	22sp	22sp
Ditto. £500 do. - -	22sp	25sp	..	..	23sp	24sp	..	26sp	24sp	..	25sp	..	25sp	..	25sp	..	..	..	23sp	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto. Small do. - -	26sp	25sp	22sp	..	..	26sp	..	26sp	24sp	24sp	25sp	25sp	25sp	25sp	..	..	24sp	..	23sp	24sp	..	22sp	22sp	22sp
Ditto B 1859 - - - - - -	..	100½	100¼	..	100¾	100¾	100¾	100¾	..	..	..	..	..	..	100⅝	100⅝	100⅝	..	..	100½	..	..	100½	100½
Ditto under £1000 - - - -	..	..	..	100¾	..	..	..	100½	..	100¾	..	..	..	..	100¾	..	100¾	100⅝	100⅝	..	..	..	100¼	100¼

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

				London Latest Prices.
Australasia - - - - - - -	£40 sh.,	£40	0 pd.	£88
British North American - -	50	50	0	58
Bank of London - - - - - -	100	50	0	46
Commercial of London - -	100	20	0	20½
Colonial - - - - - - - -	100	25	0	30½
City Bank - - - - - - - -	100	50	0	63
London and Westminster - -	100	20	0	46¼
London Joint Stock - - - -	50	10	0	32¼
Oriental Bank - - - - -	25	25	0	38
Provincial of Ireland - - -	100	25	0	63
National Bank - - - - - -	50	25	0	40¼
National Provincial of England	150	35	0	77¾
South Australian - - - -	25	25	0	32
Union of Australia - - - - -	25	25	0	58½
Union of London - - - - -	20	10	0	25
London and County - - -	50	20	0	28 x.d.
London Chartered of Australia	20	20	0	21
Bk. of India, & Austra. Chartrd.	20	20	0	17
New South Wales - - - - -	20	20	0	48
Bank of Egypt - - - - - -	25	25	0	24¾
Ottoman Bank - - - - - -	20	20	0	17½

FOREIGN STOCKS (*27th August.*)

Brazilian Bonds, 5 per Cent. - - - - -	103¾
Chilian Bonds, 6 per Cent. - - - - - -	105⅜
Danish 5 per Cent. - - - - - - - -	104½
Mexican 3 per Cent. - - - - - - - -	21½
Peruvian 4½ per Cent. - - - - - - - -	92½
Portuguese Bonds, 3 per Cent. - - -	45¾
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 per Cent. in £ Ster. -	114
Ditto, 4½ per cent. - - - - - - - - -	100½
Spanish Bonds 3 per Cents. - - - - - -	44⅝
Ditto, 3 per Cent. Deferred - - - - - -	28½
Turkish 6 per Cent. - - - - - - - -	90¼
(Dividends on the above payable in London.)	
Dutch 2½ per Cent. - - - - - - - -	65¾
Ditto 4 per Cent. Loan - - - - - - -	101½
French 4½ per Cent., at Paris, Aug. 26,	97f. 35c.
Ditto 3 per Cent., ditto	70f. 20c.

RAILWAY SHARES.

Company.	Paid up £	Prices July 27.	Prices Aug. 27.
Caledonian..	100	76⅞	83
Eastern Counties.. ..	100	61¾	62
Great Northern	100	102	100½
Great Western	100	49¾	50⅞
London and Blackwall ..	13½	6	6
London and Brighton ..	100	109	109½
——— North-West.	100	91½	93
——— South-West.	100	94½	93½
Midland	100	92½	97
South-Eastern	100	68	71½
York, Newcsle. & Berwick	100	91	93½
York & North Midland ..	100	72½	73

The closing prices of the day are quoted.

Bankers' Weekly Circulation Returns.

Pursuant to the Act 7 & 8 Victoria c. 32; extracted from the LONDON GAZETTES.

PRIVATE BANKS.

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. July 10.	July 17.	July 24.	July 31.
		£	£	£	£	£
1	Andover Bank	17,751	10,425	11,390	10,433	10,642
2	Ashford Bank	11,849	11,623	10,566	11,119	10,798
3	Aylesbury Old Bank	48,461	22,965	22,857	22,771	22,369
4	Baldock and Biggleswade Bank	37,223	22,953	22,079	21,405	21,475
5	Barnstaple Bank	17,182	7,209	7,210	7,480	7,710
6	Basingstoke and Odiham Bank	24,730	21,939	21,895	22,321	22,450
7	Bedford Bank	34,218	34,251	33,845	32,728	32,259
8	Bewdley Bank	18,597	9,718	9,715	10,471	10,694
9	Bicester and Oxfordshire Bank	27,090	14,721	14,995	14,345	14,180
10	BirminghamBank—Attwoods&Co.	23,695	23,194	22,164	21,865	22,425
11	Boston Bank—Garfit and Co.	75,069	64,476	62,362	60,669	60,055
12	Boston Bank—Gee and Co.	15,161	14,547	14,303	14,698	14,865
13	Bridgewater Bank	10,028	8,030	7,819	7,433	7,263
14	Bristol Bank	48,277	34,331	32,892	32,034	30,897
15	Broseley and Bridgenorth Bank	26,717	14,290	15,289	14,362	14,164
16	Buckingham Bank	29,557	22,330	22,603	22,200	21,526
17	Bury and Suffolk Bank	82,362	57,130	59,819	58,444	58,591
18	Banbury Bank	43,457	29,781	29,997	30,419	30,252
19	Banbury Old Bank	55,153	24,150	23,853	23,517	23,386
20	Bedfordshire Leighton Buzzard Bk.	36,829	35,411	34,567	33,494	35,298
21	Birmingham Bk.—Lloyds & Co.	38,816	24,374	28,113	27,672	26,072
22	Bradford Old Bank	12,676	12,375	11,902	12,827	12,670
23	Brecon Old Bank	68,271	37,990	33,745	36,519	38,119
24	Brighton Union Bank	33,794	16,332	16,345	15,853	15,435
25	Burlington and Driffield Bank	12,745	12,586	11,924	10,990	10,836
26	Bury St. Edmund's Bank	3,201	2,220	2,171	2,044	1,810
27	Cambridge Bk.—Mortlock & Co.	25,744	12,437	12,536	11,737	11,640
28	Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Bk.	49,916	42,590	40,872	39,513	29,849
29	Canterbury Bank	33,671	29,418	29,692	28,178	27,485
30	Carmarthen Bank	23,597	17,381	16,729	16,878	15,772
31	Chertsey Bank	3,436	3,050	3,418	3,386	3,222
32	Colchester Bank	25,082	16,033	15,356	15,409	15,098
33	Colchester and Essex Bank	48,704	34,921	33,750	32,911	31,965
34	Cornish Bank—Tweedy & Co.	49,869	39,215	37,530	36,889	36,135
35	Coventry Bank	12,045	4,830	5,571	5,565	5,629
36	City Bank, Exeter	21,527	17,982	18,424	17,740	17,220
37	Craven Bank—Alcocks & Co.	77,154	61,821	60,055	59,204	58,931
38	Chepstow Old Bank	9,387	9,444	9,196	9,653	8,503
39	Derby Bank—Messrs. Evans	13,332	10,193	11,190	10,993	10,332
40	Derby Bank—Smith and Co.	41,304	27,206	26,085	25,956	25,302
41	Derby Old Bank	27,237	28,883	27,388	23,838	25,044
42	Devizes and Wiltshire Bank	20,674	7,252	6,753	6,735	6,949
43	Diss Bank	10,657	10,054	10,035	10,041	9,732
44	Doncaster Bank and Retford Bank	77,400	56,787	57,054	56,389	55,747
45	Darlington Bank	86,218	79,377	80,695	80,367	76,912
46	Devonport Bank	10,664	8,113	7,826	8,186	8,174
47	Dorchester Old Bank	48 807	42,644	42,126	43,655	43,176
48	East Cornwall Bk.—Robins & Co.	112,280	78,556	80,136	80,445	79,139
59	East Riding Bank—Bower & Co.	53,392	52,758	50,899	49,010	47,540
50	Essex Bk. & Bishops Stortford Bk.	69,637	37,922	38,112	37,484	38,067
51	Exeter Bank	37,894	27,130	27,353	25,470	26,086
52	Faringdon Bk. & Bk. of Wantage	8,977	6,717	6,335	6,076	6,075
53	Farnham Bank	14,202	8,845	8,881	8,489	8,371
54	Faversham Bank	6,681	5,256	5,680	5,440	5,930
55	Godalming Bank	6,322	5,946	6,088	5,895	5,787
56	Guildford Bank	14,524	14,337	13,893	13,260	13,475
57	Grantham Bank—Hardy and Co.	30,372	24,968	23,976	22,342	21,586

Bank of England Weekly Returns.

Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th of Victoria, cap. 32, for the Weeks ending as follows:—

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	1858. July 14th.	1858. July 21st.	1858. July 28th.	1858. Aug. 4th.
	£	£	£	£
Notes issued	30,721,595	30,992,595	31,021,550	31,134,870
Government debentures	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100	11,015,100
Other securities	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900	3,459,900
Gold coin and bullion	16,246,595	16,517,595	16,546,550	16,659,870
Silver bullion	—	—	—	—
	30,721,595	30,992,595	31,021,550	31,134,870

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	1858. July 14th.	1858. July 21st.	1858. July 28th.	1858. Aug. 4th
	£	£	£	£
Proprietors' capital	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000	14,553,000
Rest	3,261,710	3,296,808	3,304,231	3,412,387
Public deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	2,525,291	2,808,845	3,640,443	4,103,125
Other deposits	15,616,388	15,711,905	15,053,461	14,319,008
Seven day and other bills	841,828	798,480	904,974	784,966
	36,798,217	37,169,038	37,356,109	37,172,486
Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuities)	10,587,476	10,587,476	10,587,476	10,774,367
Other securities	15,620,435	15,499,255	15,440,082	15,400,163
Notes	9,938,235	10,386,965	10,612,295	10,317,405
Gold and silver coin	652,071	695,342	716,256	680,551
	36,798,217	37,169,038	37,356,109	37,172,486

The Exchanges.

	July 2nd.	July 9th.	July 16th.	July 23rd.
Amsterdam, short	11 15½	11 15½	11 15½	11 15½
Ditto 3 months	11 17⅞	11 17½	11 17½	11 17½
Rotterdam, ditto	11 17⅞	11 17⅞	11 17½	11 18
Antwerp, ditto	25 35	25 37½	25 37½	25 40
Brussels, ditto	25 35	25 37½	25 37½	25 40
Hamburgh, ditto	13 7	13 7	13 6½	13 7
Paris, short	25 7½	25 10	25 10	25 12½
Paris, 3 months	25 32½	25 32½	25 35	25 37½
Marseilles, ditto	25 35	25 35	25 35	25 37½
Frankfort, ditto	118½	118½	118½	118½
Vienna, ditto	10 27	10 27	10 28	10 30
Trieste, ditto	10 28	10 28	10 29	10 31
Petersburgh, ditto	35½	35½	35½	35½
Madrid, ditto	49½	49½	49½	49½
Cadiz, ditto	49½	49½	49½	49½
Leghorn, ditto	29 75	29 75	29 75	29 77½
Genoa, ditto	25 50	25 47½	25 45	25 45
Naples, ditto	41½	41½	41½	41½
Palermo, ditto	125½	125½	124½	124½
Messina, ditto	125½	125½	124½	124½
Lisbon, ditto	52	52	52	52
Oporto, ditto	52½	52½	52½	52½
Rio Janeiro 60 dys.'dte	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF BULLION.

Foreign Gold in Bars (Standard)	Per Ounce. £3 17 9	Per Ounce. £3 17 9	Per Ounce. £3 17 9	Per Ounce. £3 17 9
Mexican Dollars				
Silver in Bars (Stand.)				

	NAME OF BANK.	Authorised Issue.	AVERAGE AMOUNT. July 10.	July 17	July 24.	July 31.
		£	£	£	£	£
116	Salop Bank	22,338	12,944	12,133	11,570	12,622
117	Scarborough Old Bank	24,813	19,385	19,219	19,030	19,379
118	Shrewsbury Old Bank	43,191	36,484	33,756	31,011	30,497
119	Sittingbourne and Milton Bank	4,789	2,686	2,455	2,285	2,536
120	Southampton Town & County Bk.	18,589	12,130	11,480	10,992	10,450
121	Southwell Bank	14,744	9,902	9,644	9,275	9,427
122	Southampton and Hampshire Bk.	6,770	2,955	2,970	3,019	3,014
123	Stafford Old Bank	14,166	11,071	11,153	11,840	12,001
124	Stamford and Rutland Bank	31,858	21,883	22,176	22,017	21,366
125	Shrewsbury and Welsh Pool Bank	25,336	19,226	19,815	18,227	17,537
126	Taunton Bank	29,799	23,116	23,421	23,367	22,986
127	Tavistock Bank	13,421	7,450	7,168	6,885	6,409
128	Thornbury Bank	10,026	9,235	9,418	9,112	9,334
129	Tiverton and Devonshire Bank	13,470	10,409	10,440	10,633	9,895
130	Thrapstone and Kettering Bank	11,559	11,915	11,270	11,305	11,311
131	Tring Bank and Chesham Bank	13,531	13,122	13,224	13,419	12,326
132	Towcester Old Bank	10,801	6,864	6,891	7,053	6,922
133	Town and County of Poole Bk. and Ringwood and Poole Bk.	11,856	8,295	8,574	8,227	7,762
134	Union Bank, Cornwall	17,003	13,843	12,580	12,481	11,633
135	Uxbridge Old Bank	25,136	10,800	11,120	10,980	10,042
136	Wallingford Bank	17,064	6,780	7,206	6,703	6,514
137	Warwick and Warwickshire Bank	30,504	19,672	21,079	19,784	19,257
138	Wellington Bank, Somerset	6,528	4,638	5,667	5,764	5,723
139	West Riding Bank	46,158	38,908	38,593	38,271	39,086
140	Whitby Old Bank	14,258	12,721	12,019	11,635	11,631
141	Winchester, Alresford & Alton Bk.	25,892	16,745	17,649	17,798	18,082
142	Weymouth Old Bank	16,461	13,148	13,365	14,213	14,613
143	Wirksworth and Derbyshire Bk.	37,602	34,351	35,103	33,592	33,673
144	Wisbeach and Lincolnshire Bank	59,713	42,351	41,965	41,637	41,470
145	Wiveliscombe Bank	7,602	5,714	5,999	6,127	6,780
146	Wolverhampton Bk.—Goodricke	14,180	7,635	7,686	7,854	8,221
147	Worcester Old Bank	87,448	48,355	49,588	48,419	48,207
148	Wolverham. Bk.—R. & W. Fryer	11,867	7,859	8,378	8,308	7,927
149	Yarmouth and Suffolk Bank	53,060	36,885	38,442	37,763	37,711
150	Yarmouth, Norfolk, & Suffolk Bk.	13,229	10,019	10,357	10,540	10,285
151	York Bank	46,387	35,359	35,405	35,386	34,821

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1	**Bank of Westmoreland**	12,225	9,373	9,090	8,655	8,459
2	**Barnsley Banking Company**	9,563	8,623	8,635	8,889	8,905
3	**Bradford Banking Company**	49,292	48,350	49,745	49,065	48,205
4	**Bilston District Banking Company**	9,418	9,440	9,620	8,908	9,177
5	**Bank of Whitehaven**	32,681	24,345	24,979	25,018	24,515
6	**Bradford Commercial Banking Co.**	20,084	19,848	20,458	19,752	19,335
7	**Burton, Uttoxeter, and Staffordshire Union Bank**	60,701	42,364	39,394	37,506	36,435